

ENSURING SAFETY IN THE USE OF CONTRAST MEDIA AGENTS: IMPROVING PROCESSES THROUGH PHARMACY-RADIOLOGY COLLABORATION

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In 2003, The Joint Commission™ added contrast media to its definition of medications, which means that orders for contrast media are to be reviewed for appropriateness. Other Joint Commission requirements that impact procedures for use of contrast media in accredited institutions include the 2007 National Patient Safety Goals for Hospitals, which require medication reconciliation, and labeling of all medications, medication containers (e.g., syringes, medicine cups, basins), or other solutions on and off the sterile field in perioperative and other procedural settings; Standard MM.2.20, which restricts access to medications only to persons who are authorized in accordance with the hospital's policy and law or regulation; Standard MM.5.10 requiring that policies and procedures address health care staff who are allowed to administer medications; and Standard IM.6.20 requiring documentation of all administered medications in the medical record.

The application of these standards to contrast media has caused pharmacy and radiology departments to evaluate institutional practices related to contrast media. In addition, safety concerns about the use of contrast media in certain patient populations have arisen, necessitating that practitioners institute measures to ensure that these agents are prescribed and administered safely.

Achieving compliance with The Joint Commission standards and National Patient Safety Goals requires a collaborative effort among the pharmacy and radiology departments. This program is designed to provide an understanding of The Joint Commission standards related to contrast media, review the updates to the standards in 2007, and discuss tips to ensure success in your institution. The program faculty will describe first-hand experiences with implementing policies, procedures, and practices to comply with The Joint Commission standards, present strategies used to improve safety within their institutions, and address issues identified by questions the audience submits prior to the program.