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## Medication Administration

MM.5-1

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**SUBJECT/TITLE: ADMINISTRATION OF ENTERIC AND INTRAVENOUS CONTRAST AGENTS ON INPATIENT CARE UNITS**

**PURPOSE:** Assure safe administration of contrast agents to patients on inpatient unit.

**DEFINITION:** Contrast Agents: All contrast agents are considered medications. Contrast is used to enhance structures or fluids within the body during medical imaging.  
Intravenous (IV) contrast agents: contrast agent such as iopamidol (Isovue®) or gadobenate dimeglumine (Multihance®) deemed safe for intravenous or oral administration.  
Enteric contrast agents: contrast agent such as iopamidol (Isovue®), barium, diatrizoate sodium-meglumine (MD-Gastroview®, Gastrografin®) that are deemed safe for use in the G-I tract only.

### INTRAVENOUS CONTRAST

1. There is no indication for contrast injection into a venous or arterial line on the inpatient unit. This should only happen in an imaging suite.

### NASOGASTRIC TUBE PLACEMENT

1. Enteric contrast should never be injected into a nasogastric or nasojejunal tube on an inpatient unit to verify tube position. Inadvertent injection into the lungs through a misplaced tube can result in chemical pneumonitis and patient death.
2. Placement of a nasogastric or nasojejunal tube should be verified through an x-ray of the abdomen.

### PERCUTANEOUS GASTROSTOMY (PEG) AND PERCUTANEOUS JEJUNOSTOMY TUBE (PEJ):

1. Procedures requiring the administration of an enteric contrast agent to determine placement of PEG or PEJ tube should be performed in the Department of Radiology following written Radiology procedure protocol.
2. If it is not possible to transport the patient to radiology, the radiologist or radiology resident must be consulted before administering the enteric contrast.

3. If it is determined that enteric contrast must be administered on an inpatient unit, an order for the total amount of enteric contrast required to complete the procedure must be entered into Epic. The contrast agent will be supplied by Pharmacy.
4. The exact dose of contrast ordered will be dispensed from Pharmacy in an oral syringe or in a Wheaton vial with an associated bar-code. The bar-code is to be scanned by Nursing staff per standard medication administration procedures.

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