
Diagnostic Services – Department of Radiology – Diagnostic Division

SUBJECT/TITLE: CRITICALLY ILL PATIENTS

PURPOSE: Describe procedures to expedite care of critically ill patients.

DEFINITION: None

POLICY:

Arrangements shall be made to expedite the critical patient's treatment so that the patient spends the shortest time possible in the Radiology Department with maximum ease in handling the patient.

PROCEDURE:

1. Critical patients should be brought to Radiology at the discretion of the patient's physician.
2. A medical person (not a nursing assistant) competent to deal with the patient's condition is to transport, accompany and remain with the patient for the duration of the exam.
3. The Radiology Department must approve the exam prior to transportation to assure exam room, technologist/sonographer and physician availability.
4. If any patient support equipment is required, this should be brought by the patient care area or communicated to Radiology regarding the special need.
5. Emergency equipment should always be readily available.
6. If the patient is in traction and/or the weight of the patient could exceed our table limitation, contact the Radiology Supervisor for direction.
7. Attempts should be made to give nursing units approximately 30 minutes notice of exam time.