
Diagnostic Services – Department of Radiology – Diagnostic Division

SUBJECT/TITLE: MANAGEMENT OF ADVERSE PATIENT EVENTS OR OUTCOMES IN THE RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

PURPOSE: Describe procedure for staff to follow should a serious adverse event occur in the Department of Radiology

DEFINITION:

Serious Adverse Event: an Incident that necessitates special intervention because the potential for serious injury is high. Serious Adverse Events will be evaluated to see whether they meet criteria for the definition of Sentinel Event.

POLICY:

A radiology staff physician must examine the patient who experiences an adverse event in Radiology, make appropriate notes in the patient's chart, notify the referring physician, make appropriate care orders, and file an PSN report.

PROCEDURE:

Procedure:

1. All patients having an adverse event in the Radiology Department must be seen by a Radiology physician.
2. If the Radiology physician is a resident, the staff Radiology physician responsible must be promptly notified.
 - a. On nights, weekends, and evenings this would be staff Radiology physician on-call.
 - b. During regular hours this would be staff Radiology physician in charge of that service.
3. A notation involving the adverse event must be made in the patient electronic medical record (EMR) by a Radiology physician.
4. The clinical physician responsible for the patient must be promptly notified and this notification must be documented in the EMR.

5. If patient care orders relative to the event are necessary, these should be written by the radiologist. In the event of a complex adverse event where care is assumed by another physician (i.e., cardiac arrest with care assumed the Medical Intensive Care Unit), the radiologist is relieved of the direct patient care responsibility.

6. Any staff member who believes a Serious Adverse Event has occurred should notify their immediate supervisor for determination of the severity of the event, preservation of the evidence, and initiation of the reporting process described below. Events in the Department of Radiology should include notification of the appropriate technical director and clinical chief or supervisor.

7. For further information regarding response and notification for serious adverse events, refer to UIHC policy [IP-AE-04.18](#).