University of Iowa Health Care

Diagnostic Services – Department of Radiology – Diagnostic Division

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SUBJECT/TITLE: PROCEDURE FOR IMAGING PATIENTS THAT ARE
PREGNANT UTILIZING A MRI SCANNER

PURPOSE: To define an appropriate procedure to image pregnant patients utilizing a MR scanner.

DEFINITION: None

POLICY: The MR Division of the Department of Radiology will develop a protocol to define the appropriate procedure for imaging pregnant patients utilizing a MRI scanner

PROCEDURE:

1. Pregnant patients can undergo MRI scans during any trimester if the following conditions are satisfied:
    A. The responsible radiologist determines that MRI is appropriate after careful consideration of risk–benefit tradeoffs.
        - The diagnostic information needed from the MR study cannot be acquired safely by alternative means (e.g., ultrasonography).
        - The diagnostic information from the MRI will be used to treat the patient and/or the fetus, or alter the current treatment, during the pregnancy.
        - The referring physician believes it would be imprudent to wait until after pregnancy to obtain this information.

    2. The Patient or legal guardian will be given the pregnancy information sheet.

3. MR contrast agents should _not_ be routinely administered to pregnant patients.
    - The decision to use intravenous contrast must be made on a case-by case basis by the attending radiologist, who will confer with the referring physician to assess the risk–benefit tradeoffs for that patient. The medical necessity to use contrast during pregnancy must be documented in the patient's medical record by the

attending physician who requested the study must be in the patient's medical record before procedure can be performed.

- If it is determined that contrast is needed, the patient or legal guardian must sign a procedural consent form (G-2d$_2$) after they are made aware of the potential risks and benefits of the proposed MR procedure and the availability of alternative diagnostic tests (if any).