Subject: Standard of Care for Screening Outpatients prior to MRI

Purpose: To ensure safe and consistent care for the patient who has self-administered anti-anxiety medication for MRI.

Policy:

1. Upon the patient’s arrival to the MRI suite, the staff will screen the patient for:
   a. Presence of ferrous metal
   b. Medications taken for anti-anxiety or sedation to enable the patient to comfortably tolerate the MRI scan.

2. In the case where the patient has taken a medication for sedation and/or anxiety, ask the patient if they have a driver present to take them home following the exam.

3. If the patient does not have a driver available offer the following suggestions.
   a. Do you have someone you can call to come pick you up?
   b. Would you be willing to take a taxi to a local motel and spend the night?
   c. Inform the patient that taking these types of medications put them at risk for accidentally falling asleep while driving and hospital policy dictates the patient is unable to safely drive for 24 hours after taking medication.

4. Have the patient sign an AMA form if unable/unwilling to comply with above suggestions. Make sure to document exactly what information you gave the patient, include a b-1B form for post sedation discharge instructions for the patient.

10/11/01