

# BWH Radiology Documentation

Document Number
7.4.5SOP

Title		
Contrast Administration – Air Embolism		
Document Type	Revision Code	Page Number
Standard Operating Procedure	A	1 of 2
PRESUMES PRACTITIONERS KNOWLEDGE OF: (title)	SPECIAL NOTES	
NA	<b>ABSOLUTE CONTRAINDICATIONS: NA</b>  <b>EXPOSURE: NA</b>  <b>PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT: NA</b>  <b>PATIENT/FAMILY EDUCATION MATERIALS: NA</b>  <b>EQUIPMENT: NA</b>	

## 1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 Provide guidelines for identifying and treating air embolisms

## 2.0 SCOPE

NA

## 3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

NA

## 4.0 DEFINITIONS

NA

## 5.0 POLICY / PROCEDURE

### 5.1 Air Embolism

5.1.1 Inadvertent injection of large amounts of air into the venous system may result in air hunger, dyspnea, cough, chest pain, pulmonary edema, tachycardia, hypotension or expiratory wheezing.

5.1.2 Neurological deficits may result from stroke due to decreased cardiac output or paradoxical air embolism.

### 5.2 Treatment of venous air embolism includes:

5.2.1 Administration of 100% oxygen.

5.2.2 Patient should be placed in the left lateral decubitus position (i.e. left side down).

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Document Type	Revision Code	Page Number
Standard Operating Procedure	A	2 of 2

## REVISION SHEET

DATE	REV	REVIEWED / REVISED / APPROVED	BY
6/20/2006	-	Initial Approval	Pharmacy & Therapeutics Comm.
9/18/2007	-	Annual Reviewed	OSC Comm.
4/28/2008	-	Annual Review	OSC Comm.
6/15/2009		Annual Review	OSC Comm.
7/14/2009	A	Change to New Template	Duncan Phillips
7/16/2009	A	Reviewed	E. Bozidijain

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