

# BWH Radiology Documentation

Document Number
7.1.2SOP

Title		
Contrast Agent - Definitions		
Document Type	Revision Code	Page Number
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<b>PRESUMES PRACTITIONERS KNOWLEDGE OF:</b> (title)	<b>SPECIAL NOTES</b>	
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 To define what is a Contrast Agent

## 2.0 SCOPE

NA

## 3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

NA

## 4.0 DEFINITIONS

NA

## 5.0 POLICY / PROCEDURE

5.1 Contrast medications or contrast agents are medications used in imaging procedures to facilitate the differentiation of body tissues.

5.2 The most common contrast agents are:

5.2.1 Iodine-containing contrast and barium used in x-ray imaging

5.2.1.1 Iodine-containing contrast and barium contrast act by absorbing or attenuating the x-ray beam as it passes through the tissue.

5.2.2 Gadolinium-containing contrast agents (GCCA) used in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)

5.2.2.1 Gadolinium is a paramagnetic element; GCCA alters the local magnetic field of water protons in the body area being scanned,

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facilitating a rapid release of absorbed energy that results in a stronger signal and a brighter image.

- 5.2.3 Microbubble contrast used in echocardiography and ultrasound imaging
  - 5.2.3.1 Microbubble contrast, also called perfluorocarbon microsphere contrast, interacts with the ultrasound wave, resulting in harmonic echoes that are unique to these agents
- 5.2.4 NOTE: Radiopharmaceuticals are not considered contrast agents and their prescription and administration falls under the supervision and policies of the Division of Nuclear Medicine.

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## 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.
6/19/2009	A	Change to New Template	Duncan Phillips
7/16/2009	A	Reviewed	E. Bozadjian

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