

Clarification: MRI Technologists & MRI Contrast Injections

From the ACR Practice Guidelines:

D. Technologist (Page 3)

Technologists performing injections of contrast media should be in compliance with existing operating policies and procedures at the imaging facility in which they are working. At a minimum, the technologist should understand the general benefits of contrast media administration, follow protocols that involve intravascular injection of contrast media, understand contraindications to intravascular injection of contrast media, and recognize adverse events following contrast media administration.

Certification by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), the American Registry of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists (ARMRIT), or an unrestricted state license is required.

The ACR link: <http://www.acr.org/~media/536212D711524DA5A4532407082C89BA.pdf>

From the Onet Online - US Dept. of Labor Research group:

Summary Report for: 29-2035.00 - Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists

Operate Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanners. Monitor patient safety and comfort, and view images of area being scanned to ensure quality of pictures. **May administer gadolinium contrast dosage intravenously.** May interview patient, explain MRI procedures, and position patient on examining table. May enter into the computer data such as patient history, anatomical area to be scanned, orientation specified, and position of entry.

ARMRIT is listed on the Onet's "Find Certification" page".

The Onet Online link: <http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-2035.00>

From the IACMRL MRI Standards:

4.1.4A Contrast Administration and Supervision Policy – MRI safety procedures must address possible contraindications that include Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis (NSF) and contrast material sensitivity, if used, and allergies to medications. Patient management must address these possible contraindications prior to the MRI procedure and must be listed on the screening questionnaire.

4.1.4.1A The administration of contrast agents, medication and/or sedation must be performed by licensed or qualified trained personnel, under the direct supervision of a licensed physician or in compliance with federal, state or local laws.

The IACMRL Link: <http://www.intersocietal.org/mri/standards/IACMRISTandardsJuly2014.pdf>

ARMRIT is a criterion of the IACMRL for MRI Technologists (see pages 7 & 10).

Clarification: MRI Technologists & MRI Contrast Injections (continued):

From the RadSite MAP Standards:

The following is a response to my email question to RadSite:

We don't go into any specific details about contrast injection by MRI technologists. We do require "an ACLS-certified individual to be present, and continuously monitor a patient undergoing IV contrast or sedation" (Standard 6.2.1.14) and we expect all technologists to "Follow the policies, procedures and safety protocols established by the medical director/supervising physician or generated by federal, state and local requirements, and by other oversight or accrediting agencies" (Standard 4.3.1.4). Since our current standards recognize ARMIRIT for certification of MRI technologists, we would certainly allow ARMIRIT-certified technologists to administer MRI contrast as appropriate.

Alice Sowinski, Manager of Standards and Research, **RadSite**

From The Joint Commission Standards:

The following is a response to my email question to The Joint Commission:

The Joint Commission response:

Standard MM.05.01.11 EP2: "The organization dispenses medications and maintains clinical records in accordance with law and regulation, licensure, and professional standards of practice." and MM.06.01.01 EP.1: "The organization defines, in writing, licensed independent practitioners and the clinical staff disciplines that are authorized to administer medication, with or without supervision, in accordance with law and regulation."

MRI contrast is considered a medication and the above 2 standards would apply.

Andrea Browne, Standards Interpretation, Division of Healthcare Improvement Group,
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