



Association for Radiologic & Imaging Nursing

POSITION STATEMENT

Patient Safety in the Imaging Setting

Introduction

Healthcare professionals in the medical imaging setting face unique challenges to ensure patient safety. Broad process and systems interventions are required to ensure that patient safety initiatives are carefully developed, implemented, and maintained ensuring a culture of safety (Emergency Nurses Association, 2005).

Rationale and Supporting Information

The Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing (ARIN) is dedicated to the success of research, education, and implementation of evidence-based measures that ensure the well-being of patients receiving care and treatments in the imaging setting. In addition, the core purpose of ARIN is to foster the growth of nurses who advance the standard of care in the imaging environment. Therefore, it is the position of ARIN that

1. Patients, families, and communities have the right to safe, effective, quality care in the medical imaging setting.
2. Imaging nurses have a critical role in ensuring that patients are cared for in a safe and effective environment. Nurses are integral in establishing and implementing practice guidelines and standards related to patient safety in an interdisciplinary manner.
3. Imaging nurses must maintain ongoing continuing education to enhance knowledge and skills in imaging nursing to understand system, process, and environmental factors that increase the potential for practice errors and to acquire strategies for the implementation of patient safety improvements (American College of Radiology, 2008).
4. Healthcare providers in the imaging setting are encouraged to report errors and near-misses so that underlying factors contributing to errors can be identified and analyzed so that improvements can be made. Institutions are encouraged to facilitate a blameless approach to error reporting.
5. Institutions and manufacturers of medical and imaging equipment should work together to develop industry standards that address safe, effective, and quality patient care.

Be it also known that ARIN fully supports the following:

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Medical Administration of Radiation and Radioactive materials (Nuclear Regulatory Association, 2005)
2. The American College of Radiology (ACR) Practice Guidelines for the Use of Intravascular Contrast Media (American College of Radiology, 2008)
3. The ACR Guidelines for Safe MR Practices (American College of Radiology, 2007)
4. The Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goals

References

American College of Radiology. (2007). ACR guidance document for safe MR practices: 2007. *American Journal of Radiology*, 188, 1447-1474.

American College of Radiology. (2008). *Manual on contrast media: Version 6*. Retrieved June 1, 2009, from, http://www.acr.org/SecondaryMainMenuCategories/quality_safety/contrast_manual.aspx

Emergency Nurses Association. (2005). *Emergency Nurses Association position statement: Patient safety in the emergency department*. Retrieved March 20, 2009, from, http://www.ena.org/about/position/position/Patient_Safety_-_ENA_PS.pdf

Nuclear Regulatory Commission. (1995). *Medical administration of radiation and radioactive materials*. RATS ID 1995-7. Retrieved June 1, 2009, from, <http://nrc-stp.ornl.gov/regulationtoolbox/1995-7medicaladministrationradioactivematerials.pdf>

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