



**Queensland  
Government**

**PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET ONLY**

**NO DOCUMENTED CONSENT REQUIRED**

*Unless patient is renal impaired*

### 1. What is a MRI contrast?

The medical imaging MRI procedure your doctor has asked you to have may use MRI Contrast. MRI Contrast is a colourless liquid that is injected into your blood stream. MRI Contrast is not a dye. It does not stain the inside of your body. It is used during MRI medical imaging procedures to allow your organs to be seen more clearly. Your doctor needs to use MRI Contrast to be able to get all the information needed to assist with your diagnosis.

**This information sheet must be read together with the information sheet of the procedure you are booked for** (if you do not have this information sheet please ask for one).

### 2. During the procedure

When the MRI Contrast is injected you should not feel any different.

### 3. After the procedure

MRI Contrast does not affect your ability to carry out normal activities; you should be able to continue with your day as normal.

### 4. Precautions

MRI Contrast is not suitable for some people; you will be asked a series of questions before it is given to you. Your answers allow staff to identify any risk factors that you may have.

- Please tell the staff if you are or suspect you might be pregnant or are breastfeeding.

#### Kidney function:

- MRI Contrast is removed from your blood by your kidneys through your urine. It is easily removed from the body of people who have normal kidney function.
- People whose kidneys are poorly functioning (known as 'Renal Failure') cannot remove MRI Contrast from their body. This may lead to a very rare disorder called Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis (NSF).
- NSF is a condition that results in scarring or thickening of the skin and tissues throughout the body. This scarring can lead to a tightening of muscle, tendons, ligaments, or skin that prevents normal movement and function. This condition is severely disabling and may result in death.
- You may be asked to have a simple blood test to find out the level of their kidney function.

### 5. What are the risks of MRI Contrast?

The risks and complications with MRI Contrast can include but are not limited to the following.

#### **Common risks and complications include:**

- No know common risks.

#### **Less common risks and complications include:**

- Injected Contrast may leak outside of the blood vessel, under the skin and into the tissue. This may require treatment. In very rare cases, further surgery could be required if the skin breaks down.
- The injection may not be possible due to medical and/or technical reasons.

#### **Rare risks and complications include:**

- Allergic reactions occur within the first hour with most happening in the first 5 minutes.
- The reactions vary from:
  - *Mild* – headache, brief nausea, dizziness, hives, rash and itching.
  - *Moderate* – wide spread hives, headaches, facial swelling, vomiting, shortness of breath.
  - *Severe* – Severe reactions are rare but include: life-threatening heart palpitations, very low blood pressure, throat swelling, fits and/or cardiac arrest.
- Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis (NSF) for severe renal impaired patients only.
- Death as a result of MRI contrast is very rare.

### 6. What are the safety issues when you leave the hospital?

Go to your nearest Emergency Department or GP if you become unwell.

#### **Notes to talk to my doctor about:**

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