POLICY

Imaging Services will comply with the recommendation of the American College of Pediatrics, the American College of Radiology, and the Motherisk Program affiliated with the Toronto Hospital for Sick Kids, and that is for lactating patients to continue breast feeding after the administration of intravascular contrast media and gadolinium based contrast media for radiography or MR procedures.

PROCEDURE

The lactating patient will be advised at the time of the procedure of the recommendation to continue breast feeding in accordance with the Appendix A Patient Information Sheet for Lactating Patients Receiving Radiographic or MR contrast Media.

The lactating patient will be advised to continue breast feeding after the administration of intravascular contrast media and gadolinium based contrast media.

Refer to attachments as noted below; which form part of this policy and procedure:

1. Letter Anderson/Gross - Radiographic contrast material use in breastfeeding women.


PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET FOR LACTATING PATIENTS RECEIVING RADIOGRAPHIC AND MRI CONTRAST MEDIA

The examination you are about to undergo requires the injection of radiographic contrast material. If you are a nursing mother, this is what you should know about this material:

Very little of the radiographic or gadolinium based contrast material is excreted in breast milk. Only a fraction of contrast material is absorbed by the baby.

There have been no reports of nursing infants and children being harmed by radiographic or gadolinium based contrast material.

Infants and children who undergo certain imaging studies safely, require much higher doses of radiographic or gadolinium based contrast material than what they receive through nursing.

Both the American College of Pediatrics and the Motherisk Program affiliated with the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children recommend that a nursing mother can receive radiographic or gadolinium based contrast material when required and continue nursing the child with no ill effect.