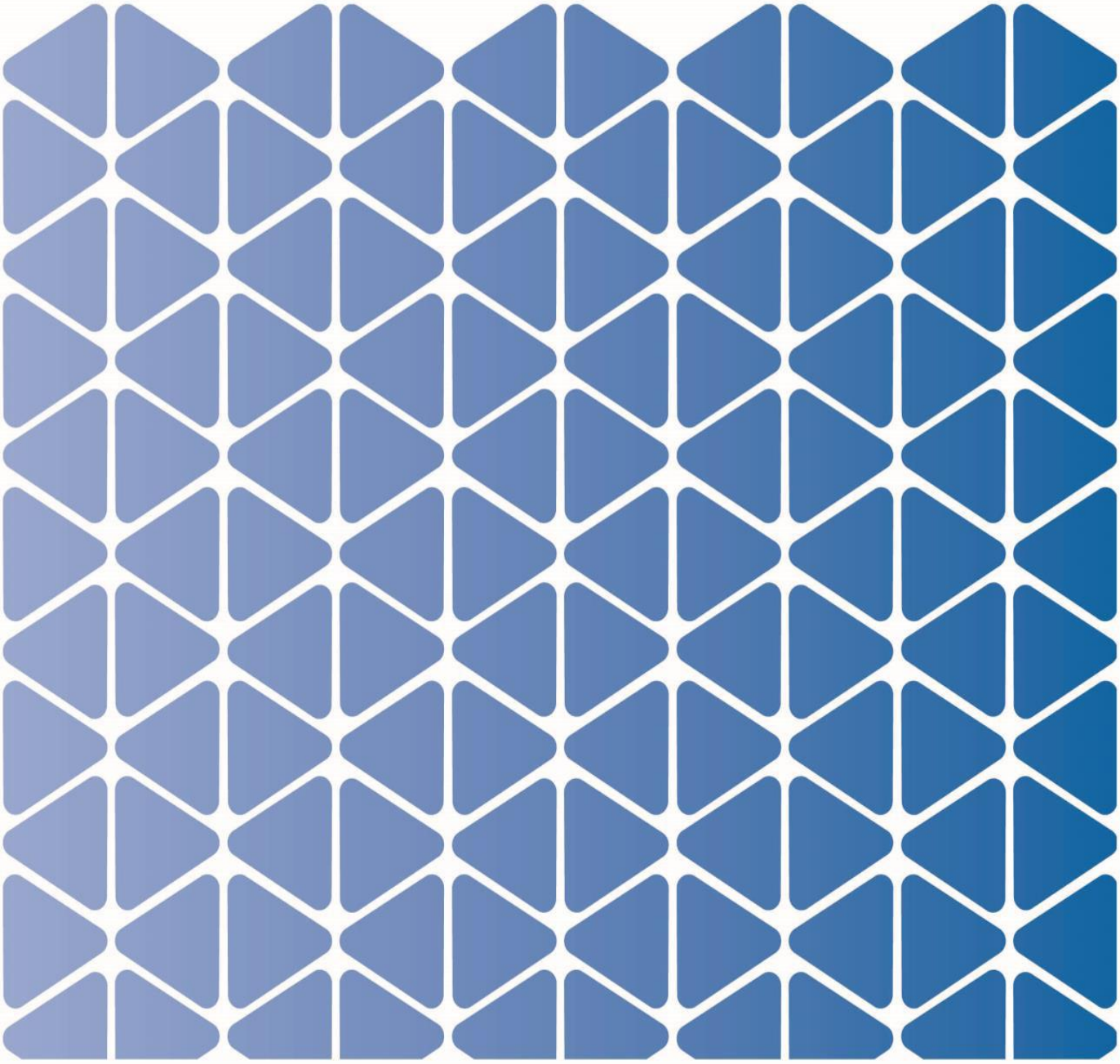
NHS
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

PATIENT INFORMATION

RADIOLOGY EXTRAVASATION AFTERCARE



PLEASE READ BEFORE LEAVING THE RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT.

Patient information following extravasation of contrast media during intravenous administration.

Introduction

The use of intravenous contrast media during CT/MRI scan examinations is a standard part of the scanning process that helps us provide you and your clinician with an accurate diagnosis.

As part of your scan you received an injection of contrast media (dye) into one of your veins. Sometimes during this procedure an extravasation (leak) may occur. This occurs when the contrast material (dye) used to optimise your scan leaks out of the vein into the surrounding tissue. When this happened you may have felt some pain or tightening around the injection site.

This sheet aims to explain what you may see / feel and what you should do. It is not meant to replace discussion between you and your doctor. If after reading it you require further explanation please discuss this with the radiography staff.

What will happen in the radiology department?

The radiographer will remove the cannula from your arm and apply pressure to stop the bleeding. The radiographer may also apply a cold compress if needed. You may notice that the area around the cannula site is swollen or red. In the vast majority of cases this will not cause you ongoing health problems and you will recover over the next few days.

The radiographer will check the condition of your arm before you leave the department, this may include you being assessed by a doctor.

If it is appropriate to repeat your scan on the same day we may do this; your radiographer and or radiologist will discuss this with you at the time. In some cases we may delay this repeat study to allow your body to recover.

After leaving the radiology department; for the next three days please note the following instructions:

1. What should I do at home?

There are several things you can do at home to speed recovery and reduce the likelihood of complications:

- Keep the arm elevated when possible
- Keep the arm moving as much as possible
- Drink plenty of non-alcoholic drinks
- Take simple pain relief for any localised pain to reduce any discomfort
- Apply a cold compress up to three times a day to the site

2. Are there any risks?

In extremely rare cases there is a small risk of developing other health problems.

If you experience any of the following signs you should contact your GP, primary care unit or Accident and Emergency department for advice and take this leaflet with you: The injection site was reviewed before you left the Imaging Department after the extravasation occurred and a pressure bandage may have been applied. A member of the radiography staff explained what had happened and what further signs to look out for. These are listed below:

- Blistering over the injection site
- Any change in colour of the arm or hand
- Any numbness or pins & needles in your arm or hand
- Severe bruising or increasing swelling at the injection site
- Increasing pain not controlled by simple painkillers

Outpatients: Please take a seat in the waiting area and take some time to read this information before you leave. If you have any questions or concerns, a member of radiology staff will be happy to help.

Inpatients: This information will be provided for you to read on the ward. If you have any questions or would like further advice, please speak with your nurse or doctor.

If your symptoms or condition worsens, or if you are concerned about anything, please call your GP, 111, or 999.

Patient Experience

We know that being admitted to hospital can be a difficult and unsettling time for you and your loved ones. If you have any questions or concerns, please do speak with a member of staff on the ward or in the relevant department who will do their best to answer your questions and reassure you.

Feedback

Feedback is really important and useful to us – it can tell us where we are working well and where improvements can be made. There are lots of ways you can share your experience with us including completing our Friends and Family Test – cards are available and can be posted on all wards, departments and clinics at our hospitals. We value your comments and feedback and thank you for taking the time to share this with us.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

If you have any concerns or questions about your care, we advise you to talk with the nurse in charge or the department manager in the first instance as they are best placed to answer any questions or resolve concerns quickly. If the relevant member of staff is unable to help resolve your concern, you can contact the PALS Team. We offer informal help, advice or support about any aspect of hospital services & experiences.

Our PALS team will liaise with the various departments in our hospitals on your behalf, if you feel unable to do so, to resolve your problems and where appropriate refer to outside help.

If you are still unhappy you can contact the Complaints Department, who can investigate your concerns. You can make a complaint orally, electronically or in writing and we can advise and guide you through the complaints procedure.

How to contact PALS:

Telephone Patient Services: 0300 123 1732 or via email at: wah-tr.PALS@nhs.net

Opening times:

The PALS telephone lines are open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4.00pm. Please be aware that you may need to leave a voicemail message, but we aim to return your call within one working day.

If you are unable to understand this leaflet, please communicate with a member of staff.