

UW Medicine



Contrast Reaction

What you need to know

This handout provides critical information about what to do if you have had a reaction to contrast, also called X-ray dye, CT dye, and MR contrast.

Why am I getting this handout?

You have had a moderate or severe allergic-like or *hypersensitivity* reaction to *contrast*, also called *X-ray dye*, *CT dye*, and *MR contrast*.

If you were to have another injection of contrast, without taking the right precautions, it could result in a more serious reaction, or even death.

What do I need to do?

- Tell all of your doctors, other healthcare providers, and anyone who schedules an appointment for you, that you had a reaction to contrast.
- Having a reaction does not mean you should never have a contrast injection in the future. It does mean that special precautions and considerations are needed if you have an exam that uses contrast. One of these precautions might be taking a steroid medicine ahead of time.
- Also, think about getting medic alert jewelry to wear. A medic alert bracelet or necklace tells emergency medical workers about your situation.



Be sure to tell all of your healthcare providers that you have had an allergic reaction to contrast.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

- UWMC Imaging Services:
206.598.6200
- Harborview Imaging Services:
206.744.3105
- Seattle Cancer Care Alliance:
206.288.7200