

UW Medicine



Contrast Reaction

What you need to know

This handout tells 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 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 medical providers, and anyone who schedules a healthcare visit for you that you have had a reaction to contrast.
- Think about getting medical alert jewelry to wear. A medical alert bracelet or necklace warns emergency medical workers that you had a reaction to contrast.



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

Can I ever have another contrast injection?

Having a reaction does not mean you should never have a contrast injection in the future. It does mean that your doctors will need to take special precautions if you have an exam that uses contrast. One of these precautions might be giving you a *steroid* medicine ahead of time.

Questions?

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

- UWMC - Montlake Imaging Services: 206.598.6200
- UWMC - Northwest Imaging Services: 206.668.1744
- Harborview Imaging Services: 206.744.3105
- Seattle Cancer Care Alliance: 206.606.7200