Contrast Media Conservation: GE Omnipaque Shortage

Healthcare systems across the world are experiencing supply chain disruptions and product shortages due to the ongoing influence of COVID-19. Factors such as raw material shortages, shipping port logjams, freight cost, labor shortages, and more have significantly impacted the availability of critical patient care items and devices in a multitude of categories. Early recognition of potential supply shortages – both with contracted suppliers and non-contracted suppliers that may impact demand across a product category – is essential. Fully understanding the utilization (where and why) of these products and implementing conservation strategies will better support effective management of these products throughout the disruption.

CONSOLIDATE: Inventory all stock on hand and consider a central distribution location for disbursement. Large hospital systems may want to contemplate how to approach consolidation efforts, either as a whole system, or at the individual site level. Consider including your outpatient clinics, imaging centers, and ambulatory surgery centers using contrast media.

COLLABORATE: Engage radiologists and radiology staff, emergency physicians, cardiologists, vascular surgeons, outpatient imaging providers, and all users of intravascular radiopaque contrast media to evaluate imaging modality alternatives in relation to the needed procedure. During this shortage, discuss protocols and procedures for CT and x-rays to ensure appropriate use of contrast media.

COMMUNICATE: Engage and educate providers openly on procedure supply disruption, alternatives, and how this disruption may impact their diagnostic approach. Evaluate **opportunities to adjust scanning protocols to scan without contrast and injector protocols** to reduce the amount of contrast dose.

ALTERNATIVES: The **American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Drug Shortages** website posted a table of potential nonionic, low-osmolality contrast alternatives to iohexol (Omnipaque) from the American College of Radiology.[1] These agents include iopamidol (Isovue), iopromide (Ultravist), and ioversol (Optiray). In addition, the American College of Radiology recently updated their **Appropriateness Criteria guidelines**, which provides peer-reviewed guidance to identify appropriate diagnostic imaging or therapeutic procedures.[2] This guidance contains recommendations on both imaging modality and use of contrast.

References

1. ASHP Drug Shortage Bulletin. Iohexol injection. Updated May 3, 2022 by Leslie Jensen, PharmD, Drug Information Specialist. © 2022, Drug Information Service, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT. https://www.ashp.org/drug-shortages/current-shortages/drug-shortage-detail.aspx?id=830&loginreturnUrl=SSOCheckOnly
2. ACR Appropriateness Criteria. American College of Radiology. Revised 2022. https://www.acr.org/Clinical-Resources/ACR-Appropriateness-Criteria

Initial or Update	Date	Completed by	Changes Made
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