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Standard Operating Procedure

MRI Screening: Detained or Arrested Patients and Accompanying Peace Officers

SITE APPLICABILITY:

To be followed by all Lower Mainland Medical Imaging staff working in Magnetic Resonance (MR) departments that performs MR exams on patients under arrest or under detention in the custody of a Peace Officer.

PURPOSE:

A thorough and effective screening procedure for patients and other individuals is one of the most critical components of a program that guards the safety of patients preparing to have an MR exam or peace officers that may need to enter the MR environment. An understanding of the risks associated with the various implants, devices, accessories and other objects that may cause safety concerns in the MR scan room (Zone IV) is an important aspect of protecting these individuals from MR system-related accidents and injuries.

SCOPE:

This Standard Operating Procedure applies to all MR technologists who perform MR exams on patients within Fraser Health (FH), Providence Health Care (PHC), Provincial Health Service Authority (PHSA) and Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH).

DEFINITIONS:

“Peace Officer” is a generic term used to refer to individuals with the authority to hold a person under arrest or under detention. (e.g. Federal/Provincial Correction Officers, police officers, sheriffs etc.)
 “Under arrest or under detention” means the person’s ability to leave has been legally removed. The person may or may not be physically restrained by handcuffs or other restraining device(s). A person under arrest or under detention who will be having a MR scan will be referred to as the “patient” throughout this document.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

MR Technologist:

- Or delegate provides the patient and the peace officer with a MR safety screening form to complete prior to the MR exam.
- Reviews the information on the MR safety screening forms.
- Completes a verbal interview with the patient and peace officer to verify the information on the forms are complete and accurate and to allow for discussion of concerns that the patient and/or peace officer may have.
- After completion of the MR safety screening form review, the MR technologist advises the peace officer to remove any metallic restraining devices and/or radiofrequency (RF) tracking bracelets from the patient and replace with a non-metallic MR safe restraining device prior to the patient entering the MR scan room (Zone IV).
- Provides safety information to the peace officer in the event the peace officer is needed to enter the MR scan room (Zone IV).
- Instructs the peace officer to remove any metal he/she is wearing unless the peace officer must remain armed. If the peace officer must remain armed he/she is not allowed to enter the MR scan room (Zone IV).

NOTE: In the event of an emergency where there is a threat to personal safety requiring the armed peace officer to enter the MR scan room and/or discharge a fire arm, the MR technologist will need to quench the magnet. While quenching the magnet, the MR technologist should keep the scan room door closed. Once the magnetic field is no longer present, the MR technologist will give access to the

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armed peace officer to enter the MR scan room.

Peace Officer must:

- Remove all metallic restraining devices and RF tracking devices from the patient prior to the patient entering the MR scan room (Zone IV).
- Provide and apply all appropriate non-metallic restraining devices to the patient prior to the patient entering the MR scan room (Zone IV). The non-metallic restraining devices must be provided by the institution and extras can be stored at the MR site in case they are needed.
- Complete MR safety screening form and review with MR technologist in case he/she is needed to go into the MR scan room (Zone IV).
- Remove any metal on their own self if required to go into the MR scan room (Zone IV).
- Reapply any metallic restraining devices and RF tracking devices outside the MR scan room (Zone IV) in the doorway into the Zone III area.

PROCEDURE:

MR technologists performing MR exams must follow this SOP when screening these patients and peace officers. They must ensure both the patient and peace officer have removed all metallic objects prior to entering MR scan room (Zone IV). The peace officer must remove metallic restraints (e.g. handcuffs, legcuffs/ leg irons) and RF tracking devices, etc. from the patient before the patient is allowed to enter the MR environment. The peace officer is responsible for replacing the metallic restraints with a non-metallic device prior to the patient entering the MR scan room (Zone IV).

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

MR safe non-metallic restraints are required for all patients who come restrained prior to entry into the MR scan room (Zone IV). If MR safe non-metallic restraints are not available the patient should be rescheduled when MR safe non-metallic restraints are available.

REFERENCES/ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS:

Shellock FG. www.mrisafety.com 2018
 Rarey L. *Imaging Correctional Facility Patients*. Radiologic Technology May/June 2011 Vol 82/ No 5:447-462
 American College of Radiology White Paper on Magnetic Resonance (MR) Safety: Combined Papers of 2002 and 2004
 Kanal E, Barkovich A, Bell C, et al. *ACR Guidance Document on MR Safe Practices: 2013* Journal of Magnetic Resonance Imaging 2013; 37:501-530
 Criminal Code of Canada

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