

**Draft guidelines:  
Protocol for Radiographer performed Barium Enemas.**



**Introduction**

These draft guidelines are intended to be used as a basis for each department involved in radiographer performed barium enemas to have their own protocols, which should be strictly adhered to. The principles contained within this document are directly transferable to other Gastro-intestinal contrast studies.

**“Statement of Intent”**

- Objectives of the initiative.
- Implementation date, review date, who will review.
- Statement of agreement with Trust / Hospital management board policies and Clinical Director, line manager etc.
- Lines of responsibility e.g. Trust board, Clinical Director, Delegating Radiologist, Radiographer.
- Delegation – definition                    }
- Supervision – definition                    }

Reference “Inter-professional Roles and Responsibilities in a Radiology Service”. 1998, RCR, CoR

**Competence**

- College of Radiographers accredited course.
- In house practical training programme
- Assessment of competence by designated Consultant Radiologist with GI interest.
- Competence to administer IV antispasmodics, recognised course or appropriately protocoled in-house training.
- Regular audit / update to ensure standards maintained
- Undertake Continuing Professional Development & Education and provide portfolio evidence.

**Examination**

- Radiographer should be assisted by at least one other suitably trained member of staff e.g. radiographer, nurse, helper. It must be recognised that the specialist radiographer requires the same support as a radiologist.
- Follow local rules and Health and Safety guidelines.
- Radiographer should inform the supervising / delegating radiologist that a session is commencing and ensure that they are available
- The examination should be conducted in accordance with the RCR guidelines on intimate examinations.

**Patient checks:**

Co-ordinated by Christine Bloor & Gary Culpan. GIRSIG 1999.

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- Positive identification
- Appropriateness of examination – relate to history
- Pregnancy status
- Establish contraindications to the examination
- Work to local protocol for administration of IV drugs

**Patient information:**

- Explanation of examination procedure
- Possible side effects
- Radiographer status and line of supervision
- Obtain verbal consent

Reference RCR guidelines on delegation
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- Perform examination in accordance with an agreed departmental protocol, which should stipulate or refer to; where relevant,
  - the film series,
  - antispasmodic protocol,
  - catheter insertion protocol,
  - antibiotic prophylaxis protocol,
  - insufflation medium (i.e. air or CO<sup>2</sup>)
- Any other steps to ensure adequate visualisation of the entire colon in double contrast.
- If events occur during the examination which are beyond the competency of the radiographer, they must seek advice from the supervising radiologist immediately.

**Post examination**

- The radiographer is responsible for the immediate after care and safety of the patient.
- To ensure that the patient is aware how they will receive the results from the examination.