## Saskatchewan Health Authority

### **Contrast Media**

### Extravasation

Contrast media (dye) is used to highlight certain areas of the body and is usually given by injection into a vein. Sometimes the contrast leaks out of the vein and into the tissues under the skin. This leak is known as extravasation.

# Call your healthcare provider or go to your nearest Emergency Department if you have any of the following:

- · severe pain
- worsening pain that does not go away
- numbness, tingling or loss of feeling
- decreased range of motion
- burning or peeling
- redness or change in colour
- coolness of lower arm or hand
- any increase in the size of your arm.

### For 24 hour professional health advice and information, call:



#### What will I see or feel?

- You may feel tightness and stinging or pain where the contrast has leaked into the tissues.
- You may see swelling and redness in the area.

### What do I do?

- If you have swelling or discomfort, use a cold pack on the affected area for 10 to 15 minutes at a time to reduce swelling. Reapply as needed.
   Wrap the cold pack in a towel. Do not place ice directly on skin as this may cause tissue damage.
- Raise your arm above the level of your heart, to help reduce swelling.
- If you have pain, take your usual pain medication as directed on the package or as prescribed by your healthcare provider.
- Watch that your symptoms are getting better and that no new symptoms develop over the next 24 hours.

Take this form with you if you need to see a healthcare provider or go to an Emergency Department.

To be completed by Medical Imaging:

| Contrast<br>Agent | Date and<br>Time | Amount of contrast extravasated | Amount of saline extravasated | Site of extravasation |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
|                   |                  |                                 |                               |                       |

