Compliance with TJC Guidelines on CT Clinical Practice

AAPM 8/1/2017
Objectives:

- Review of imaging standards
- Illustrate CT requirements for diagnostic imaging services RFIs scored 7/1/2015-3/1/2017
- Provide examples of specific items scored in diagnostic imaging
New standards went into effect July 1, 2015. They address:

- Equipment performance evaluations
- MRI safety
- CT Protocol establishment/review
- Technologist education
- CT radiation dose documentation
**Standards:** Statements define performance expectations/structures/processes to provide safe, quality care, treatment or services

**Elements of Performance (EP):** Statements detail specific performance expectations/structures/processes. EPs are scored and determine an organization’s overall compliance with a requirement.

Deficiencies are scored at the EP level.
Individual Patient Tracer:
- CT protocol selection and review
- Observe for verifications—correct pt, site, position?
- Equipment quality control checks—documented?
- Patient age & prior imaging exams considered?

Data Management Session:
- Data collection—MRI incidents, CTDIs exceeded

Competency Assessment Session:
- Medical Physicist qualifications
- Technologist annual & ongoing education
How do I survey CT?

- Verification of orders for CT exam
- Contrast administration screening
- CT protocols: age and weight based, pediatric brain and abdomen protocols for each CT scanner; CTDI recorded
- Contrast administration; power injector
- Documentation in medical record / report of contrast administration
Assessment of compliance during the onsite survey

Process: Staff interview, Surveyor observation

What are surveyors scoring?
IC.02.02.01 reduces risk of infections associated w/ medical equipment, devices and supplies

EC.02.05.01 manages risks associated w/ utility systems

EC.02.02.01 manages risks related to Hazardous materials and waste
Total RFIs Scored 7/1/15-3/1/17
N=213
PC.01.03.01 EPs 25 & 26 Establishing/reviewing imaging protocols

Themes:

- No kV, mA in protocol; std of care vary kV, mA
- Contrast use/amount not in policy/protocols
- Random adjustment/modification CT protocols; no documentation
- No evidence established CT protocols
- Not all required elements in protocols
- No time frame for review; no evidence physicist, imaging MD, technologist included in review
PI.02.01.01 EP 6 Review & analyze incidents where radiation dose index exceeded expected range identified in imaging protocols. Compare to external benchmark.

Themes: Surveyor Comments

- No data collection process
- Review of patient records: 2 of 3 exceeded range in protocol
EC.02.04.01 EP 10 – Manages medical equipment; IDs quality control & maintenance activities; identifies frequencies

Themes:

- QC being performed but no policy
- No frequency identified
- No manuals; unaware of manufacturer’s recommendations
- No record of actions when QC failed
EC.02.04.03 EP 15 (17) – Inspects, tests maintains medical equipment; maintains quality of CT, MRI, PET, NM images produced

Themes:
- CT QC plan not being done per policy
- MRI performance evaluation > 12 months
- Not following manufacturer’s recommendations
- Annual PE failures not corrected for 5 months

EP 17 (19) Measures CTDIvol for four protocols
- Four CT protocols not evaluated
PC.01.02.15 Provides for diagnostic testing
EP 10 Verification: correct patient, site, position, CT imaging protocol, scanner parameters

Themes:

- Observed study did not match protocol for imaging or contrast; incorrect scanner specified in CT protocols
- No verification process
- CT technologist unaware of imaging protocols
EC.02.06.05  EPs 4, 6 Manage environment during demolition, renovation, new construction

Themes:
- New CT installed; shielding not evaluated before use
- EP 6 *This survey is conducted prior to clinical use of the room.
How are EPs scored being reported to organization?

Survey Analysis For Evaluating Risk
SAFER Matrix

6/1/2016 Deemed Psychiatric Hospitals (tailored and non-tailored)
1/1/2017 All other programs
The SAFER Matrix: A New Scoring Methodology

Project REFRESH (see related articles on pages 3 and 5), the Joint Commission’s multiphase process improvement project, includes a transformative approach for...
The Joint Commission’s Survey Analysis for Evaluating Risk (SAFER) Matrix™

- **Immediate Threat to Life**
  - **LIMITED**: HIGH
  - **PATTERN**: MODERATE
  - **WIDESPREAD**: LOW

- **Likelihood to Harm a Patient/Staff/Visitor**
  - **HIGH**: LIMITED
  - **MODERATE**: PATTERN
  - **LOW**: WIDESPREAD

- **Scope**
  - **LIMITED**: HIGH
  - **PATTERN**: MODERATE
  - **WIDESPREAD**: LOW
EC.02.04.03 Inspects, tests, maintains medical equipment

- Low Ltd
- Low Pattern
- Low Wide
- Mod Ltd
- Mod Patt
- Mod Wide
- High Ltd
- Hi Patt
- Hi Wide
- ITL
So…What’s next?
Areas to be explored include:

- Fluoroscopy – Research/ Focus Groups/ Gap Analysis
- Radiology Assistant qualifications
- MRI scientist qualifications
- Cone Beam CT – on hold
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