

## Radiography — Discharge Advice to a Patient after an MRI with Contrast

### THE CASE NOTES

**Patient:** Mrs Gloria Osei, 48 years old; MRI brain with and without gadolinium contrast completed today; no reaction during or after the scan

**Contrast used:** Gadolinium-based contrast agent administered IV via right antecubital vein; cannula removed; no haematoma; no allergic reaction during observation period

**Aftercare:** Drink plenty of fluids for the next 24 hours — this helps the kidneys eliminate the contrast agent; no other restrictions; may return to normal activities immediately

**Injection site:** Check the cannula site on the right arm over the next 24 hours; if redness, swelling, or unusual discomfort develops, contact the radiology department or GP

**Delayed reaction:** A delayed mild skin reaction (rash, itching) is rare but possible up to 24 hours after gadolinium; if this occurs, contact the department; if severe (difficulty breathing, facial swelling) — call 999

**Results:** Results will be reported by the radiologist and sent to the referring doctor; allow 5–7 working days; the referring doctor will contact the patient with the results — do not contact the radiology department for results

**Task:** Write a discharge advice letter to Mrs Osei explaining post-scan aftercare and how she will receive her results.

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### WHAT TO INCLUDE

**+ Drink plenty of fluids for 24 hours to help eliminate the contrast agent**

This is the only active aftercare instruction the patient needs to follow. It is brief, important, and must be stated.

**+ Check the cannula site — contact the department if redness or swelling develops**

IV contrast administration carries a small risk of extravasation or local reaction. The patient must know to monitor the site and what to do.

**+ The results process: radiologist reports to the referring doctor, 5–7 working days, the referring doctor will contact the patient**

The most common post-MRI patient anxiety is 'when will I hear?' — and the most common error is contacting the radiology department directly for results. Closing this loop prevents both.

### WHAT TO LEAVE OUT

**– Technical detail of the MRI sequences performed**

The patient does not need the scan protocol. 'Your MRI brain scan has been completed' is the complete procedural statement.

**– A full delayed reaction symptom list**

Name the category (mild: rash/itch; severe: breathing difficulty, facial swelling) and the action for each. A complete pharmacological explanation of gadolinium reactions is wrong register for a patient discharge letter.

### CRITERION IN FOCUS · GENRE & STYLE

# OET Case Notes

Radiography · Beginner · Discharge letter · to Patient

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A post-MRI patient discharge letter is short, clear, and reassuring. The procedure is complete and there were no complications — the letter confirms this and provides the aftercare instructions. The Genre & Style error in this letter type is adding unnecessary medical weight: detailing the gadolinium elimination half-life, listing all possible delayed reactions, or explaining how MRI generates images. The patient needs aftercare and results information, not a radiological education.

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