

SBAR- Nuclear Medicine V/Q scans during COVID

Situation:

Change in protocol on V/Q scans due to increased COVID 19 rates in the community.

Background:

To reduce risk to nuclear medicine staff, all V/Q scan requests must be approved by Nuclear Radiology faculty.

Assessment:

V/Q scans are ordered and indications are checked; common indications for a VQ instead of a CTPA are AKI or GFR < 30 (and not on dialysis) and/or severe iodinated contrast allergy. If patient is pregnant, a low dose CTPA or perfusion only V/Q scan (if chest xray normal) can be performed.

Recommendation:

If V/Q scan request is approved by Nuclear Radiology faculty, nuclear medicine staff must wear full PPE (non-fit tested N95, eye shield, gown, gloves) to due potential of aerosol generation and coughing during exam if nuclear medicine attending radiologist wants ventilation portion of exam performed . Patient should only remove their mask when performing ventilation portion of study. Tech should ensure mask is positioned properly to minimize any leak.

Once the exam is completed, staff will clean room with PPE on and room will be closed for 30-60 minutes (determination based on air exchange rates) if the patient is COVID positive or PUI. No room closure needed if COVID negative or not suspected by screening questions (for out-patients).

