

**Breast Imaging Suite**

*Concord Hospital Campus*  
Pillsbury Building  
248 Pleasant St., Suite 106  
Concord, NH 03301  
603.415.2902

**CIC Pillsbury**

*Concord Hospital Campus*  
Pillsbury Building  
248 Pleasant St., Suite 102  
Concord, NH 03301  
603.225.0425

**CIC Horseshoe Pond**

*Medical Offices at*  
*Horseshoe Pond*  
60 Commercial St., Suite 101  
Concord, NH 03301  
603.415.9444

[www.concordimagingcenter.com](http://www.concordimagingcenter.com)

## X-RAY DYE

X-ray dye, also called contrast material or medium (not actually a “dye”), is any internally administered substance that differs in density from soft tissue on X-ray studies or CT scans. Having a different density than soft tissues means the X-ray interacts in such a way that the contrast medium provides improved discernment or “contrast” between adjacent structures. This allows the radiologist to see anatomy more clearly.

### **TYPES OF CONTRAST INCLUDE**

- Barium, water or air – used to make parts of the gastrointestinal tract visible on X-ray.
- Water-soluble iodine – used to better visualize blood vessels and internal body structures on X-ray or CT studies, or outline joints (the spaces between bones) during arthrography.
- Paramagnetic substances – not typically used for X-ray studies (primarily used for MRI studies).

### **ALLERGIES AND REACTIONS TO CONTRAST**

It is important to inform your doctor or the technologist prior to your exam if you have a history of allergies or reactions to medications, substances such as latex, or to contrast agents such as X-ray dye.

Today there is low incidence of reactions to contrast. The following factors, however, have been identified as increasing the risk for a contrast medium allergies and reactions.

- History of reaction to contrast agents
- Asthma or severe allergies
- Sickle cell anemia
- Multiple myeloma, renal insufficiency and diabetes mellitus.

Allergic reactions range from mild (nausea or hives) to severe (respiratory and/or cardiac arrest). Patients with a history of allergic reactions can be pretreated prior to the procedure. Ask your doctor for more information.

Contrast-induced nephropathy (CIN) may be seen in patients with underlying renal insufficiency or in diabetic patients taking Metformin (Glucophage®). These patients will need to stop taking Metformin prior to the examination and may need pretreatment prior to the procedure. Ask your doctor for more information.

***Concord Imaging Center uses state-of-the-art “non-ionic” contrast medium, which reduces your risk of reactions.***