

# Hospital pharmacy's sample resource utilization review

*Contrast media usage can be reduced*

The Hospital of San Raphael of New Haven, CT, has developed a comprehensive program for reducing pharmaceutical costs, including in the area of contrast media.

Here is an excerpt from the hospital's drug class review of contrast media and how to contain costs:

## Drug Class Review Contrast Media Introduction

- There are several approved, low-osmolar contrast media (LOCM) available in the United States. These include iohexol (Omnipaque™), iopromide (Ultravist®), ioversol (Optiray™), iopamidol (Isovue®), ioxilian (Oxilan®), ioxaglate (Hexabrix®), and iodixanol (Visipaque™).
- In general, clinical studies have not shown gross differences with regard to pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, or diagnostic effect among the various LOCM.
- The incidence and severity of early and late adverse effects and cost should be taken into consideration when selecting a particular contrast medium for formulary.

## Indications

- In general, iodinated contrast media are used for computed tomography (CT) — head and body, digital subtraction angiography, intravenous urography, and venography. When administered intra-arterially, contrast media is used for angiocardiology, coronary angiography, pulmonary angiography, aortography, visceral and peripheral arteriography, digital subtraction angiography, and central nervous system angiography.

## FDA-approved indications of various LOCM currently on the market in the United States:

- Ioxaglate meglumine (320 mg/mL) with the trade name Hexabrix is indicated for pediatric angiocardiology; arteriography; ventriculography; aortography; angiography; venography; phlebography; urography; computed tomography; arthrography; hysterosalpingography.
- Iodixanol (270 and 320 mg/mL) with the trade name Visipaque is indicated for intra-arterial, digital subtraction angiography (270 mg/mL only), angiography (left ventriculography and selective coronary arteriography), peripheral arteriography, visceral arteriography, cerebral arteriography (270 mg/mL only); Intravenous: Contrast enhanced computed tomographic (CECT) imaging of the head and body, excretory urography; peripheral venography (270 mg/mL only).