



office news briefs

Centralized Scheduling Hours Extended—7:30 AM–6 PM

WRA has expanded its scheduling hours to accommodate callers before and after regular work hours. The scheduling team is now available from 7:30 a.m.– 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. The scheduling phone line is **703-280-9800**. All studies can be scheduled by calling this number, with the exception of MRI, breast biopsy, and all nuclear medicine studies (including PET/CT) which are scheduled by calling the WRA clinical office.

Precertification Service Available

Washington Radiology Associates is pleased to offer pre-certification assistance for patients requiring medical imaging studies. Using your doctor's clinical notes and history, our pre-cert team will work with your patient and their insurance company to provide the pertinent information required for pre-certification approval. We hope this service will save you time and assist in your patients receiving the highest quality experience with WRA. We do require written registration/authorization from the referring physician prior to initiating this service with your practice. To get started, or for more information, please call our pre-cert department at **(703) 641-9133, ext 1195**.

New and Improved CD Software Working for You

Retrieving and viewing diagnostic images on CD just got easier. With our new CD software, you can retrieve images from patient CDs faster and without the use of Internet Explorer or disabling pop-up blockers. Just insert the CD and view the images. You may request CD copies instead of film for MRI, CT and many other studies performed at WRA. Just call any office or indicate on your order if you would like this free service.

PACS Access to Reports and Images

Online access to your patients' reports and diagnostic images is available to you through WRA's secure Picture Archiving and Communication System, (PACS). Call our PACS Manager, Terry Ewald, **703-641-9133 x1127** to set up your secure access.

Sonography Studies in 3D/4D

Did you know that WRA has replaced all of its ultrasound units with GE Voluson E8 3D/4D technology? These extraordinary and flexible units allow us to perform highly detailed obstetric and gynecological diagnostic studies in 2D mode and engage 3D/4D utilities if we identify an anomaly necessitating further investigation. Although this type of examination can be requested, you need not indicate 3D/4D on your order, it's part of our protocol.

Virtual Colonoscopy Meets Clinical Standards for Screening

The clinical evidence not only supports the use of virtual colonoscopy as a diagnostic tool for symptomatic patients who are unable to undergo a complete colonoscopy, it also supports the use of virtual colonoscopy as a screening test for colon cancer. The evidence was confirmed by The American College of Radiology Imaging Network's National CT Colonography Trial (ACRIN 6664), the largest multicenter prospective study comparing CT colonography, aka virtual colonoscopy, with the gold standard colonoscopy. Based on complete data from 2531 participants, the study concluded that CT colonography could detect polyps 1 cm or larger in nine out of 10 patients. Results matched those obtained with colonoscopy for intermediate to large-sized adenomas. The findings appeared in the September 18, 2008 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Based on this evidence, Cigna and UnitedHealthcare have approved the use of virtual colonoscopy as a screening test for colon cancer. In general, virtual colonoscopy screening will be approved for average risk, asymptomatic patients beginning at age 50 if the patient's plan covers colon cancer screening. Please continue to advise all patients, including subscribers of Cigna or UnitedHealthcare, to check with their insurance company to confirm their benefits. Patients without insurance coverage are also able to avail themselves of this technology at a standard fee of \$800.

New Prep for Virtual Colonoscopy

WRA's patient prep for virtual colonoscopy has changed to MoviPrep®, a prescription preparation. We have found this prep to be better tolerated and more effective than the previous Fleet kit. A prescription will be written for the patient and included in the prep package upon pick-up at WRA.

Caring in the Worst of Times

The economic decline we are all experiencing has left many of us wondering where to turn next for financial stability and even wondering how we're going to pay our bills in the coming months. For many patients, their fears are even more acute, especially if they are experiencing a serious illness or attempting to obtain a diagnosis. Over the years, Washington Radiology has been there for the underinsured and low-income patients through its relationships with community clinics and charitable foundations across the region. Patients who are referred to us through any of the following organizations will receive all of their prescribed imaging at no charge. In this time of economic crisis, we are more determined than ever to continue our support of patients in need through these charitable entities. Should you encounter patients in your practice in need of free medical imaging, the following resources are available to you and your patients:

- Arlington Free Clinic, Arlington
www.arlingtonfreeclinic.org
- Breast Cancer Care Foundation
www.breastcancercarefoundation.org
- The Culmore Clinic, Falls Church
(571) 205-7649
- Fairfax Community Health Network
Reston, Alexandria, Falls Church
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/pcs/hdchcn.htm

- Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, Herndon
www.jsfreeclinic.org
- La Clinica Del Pueblo, D.C.
www.lcdp.org
- Loudoun Community Health Center, Leesburg
www.loudounchc.org
- The Loudoun Free Clinic, Leesburg
www.loudounfreeclinic.org
- Mercy Health Clinic, Gaithersburg
www.mercyhealthclinic.org
- Mobile Medical Care, Bethesda
(301) 493-2400
- Whitman-Walker Clinic, D.C. and Arlington
www.wwc.org

What Else Can We Do for You?

For any questions or assistance, contact any member of Washington Radiology's marketing team at **703-573-5472**.

Virginia representative, Isabel Krauss, x2
cell **703-328-0254**; ikrauss@wrapc.com

Maryland representative, Wendy Fredericks, x3
cell **703-328-6855**; wfredericks@wrapc.com

D.C. representative, Jeannine Byrnes, x5
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Director, Nancy Sikorsky, x4; nsikorsky@wrapc.com

WRA Office Quick Reference

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BETHESDA, MARYLAND

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WASHINGTON, DC

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Washington, DC 20037
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fax (202) 659-2819

MRI – 2141 K Street, NW, Suites 100, 111
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phone (202) 785-4674
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Nuclear Medicine – PET/CT Center
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