What to do after a Contrast Media Reaction?

Information for patients
During your examination in Radiotherapy you have experienced a contrast media reaction.

Millions of imaging studies are performed with the use of contrast media each year. These drugs are used to increase the amount of information we can obtain about your body during your scan. Like all medications, on rare occasions some patients have an allergic reaction to the contrast media given. For a majority of such patients the reaction is mild and any symptoms will resolve quickly with little or no medical help.

**Date of occurrence:**

.../.../....

**What treatment have I received?**

The radiotherapy team have given you the recommended treatment for the type of reaction you have experienced in the department as soon as it was detected. If the doctor gave you medication you should not drive yourself home, and you should ensure you are not alone for the next 24 hours, this is because you may experience drowsiness and to ensure your safety is maintained.
If you have any questions or concerns about your contrast media reaction or feedback on this leaflet, please call Monday to Friday (8am to 6pm):

(0113) 206 8159

When should I contact you?
If you develop difficulty breathing or sudden shortness of breath then call 999 (do NOT go to your GP).

*If your symptoms get worse or come back within a 48hr period then you should immediately get in touch as follows:*

- Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm: Call (0113) 206 8159 and specify what examination you have had so you can talk to the correct staff.
- All other times contact either an Emergency Doctor or the NHS Help line (111 service).

Be sure to take this leaflet with you if you are asked to see a medical professional.

What happens if I need contrast again?
There are different contrast media used for different types of examinations. Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust will have added an alert to your records indicating the contrast media you are allergic to.

If you received an appointment for an examination outside the Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust, requiring contrast media, it is advised that you ring that department prior to your appointment so they are able to gain further information regarding your allergy.
If you attend a radiology department out of the Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust for future tests take this leaflet with you. Tell your radiographer, on arrival, that you have had a previous reaction to contrast and the type of reaction you had.

The decision will then be made by the supervising doctor as to whether you require contrast media again or if the test is better performed without.