The answer you need is at your fingertips.

Dispensing Barium

Has anyone recently had a Joint Commission inspection where the asked about Barium dispensing to outpatients. My leadership is pushing to let us dispense in the clinic. Our state law does allow medications to be dispensed by trained individuals. Last time JC was here they did not bring the subject up.

RE: Dispensing Barium

We had our inspection in August last year, we do dispense at our outpatient clinic sites. However, there were several concerns from the pharmacy with the dispensing of barium as it is a medication! The pharmacy regulations are all over imaging contrast at this time. If you do decide to move forward, make sure you involve your pharmacy director, as they are accountable for the dispensing of all medications. Your orders and protocols orders for barium use need to be in place and available to pharmacy for dispensing regulations. Hope this helps!

RE: Dispensing Barium

I would also check with your pharmacy leadership too. Our pharmacist also indicated it was a state board issue as well for our state, and the difference is between dispensing and administrating. To dispense there are a lot of regulations that must be followed here. We made a collective decision that we in Radiology did not want to dispense.

RE: Dispensing Barium

We recently had an inspection however, they did not ask about our process. We cannot “dispense” medication in New Jersey so we decided to have the patients come and drink on site prior to their exam.