

Patient Information Sheet: MRI Scan

Your physician has ordered an MRI exam for you. They will have discussed the reasons for ordering this exam with you and any questions you have should be referred to them. To help you prepare, we have listed the steps which should be followed to assist in making this an easy and efficient exam.

Once the MRI Booking Office receives a completed requisition and screening from your doctor, you will be called and asked a series of screening questions about your past medical history and previous surgeries only as it relates to your MRI. This is important for your safety since the MRI uses very strong Magnetic Fields to produce images. Once this screening has been completed and there is no further documents required, you will be given an appointment date and time. At this point, any specific instructions for your exam will be given to you. If you are not given any instructions, then you are not required to do anything different the day of your appointment – simply arrive for your test at the appropriate time (at least 30 minutes prior to exam time).

Since the MRI uses strong magnetic fields to produce the images, on the day of your scheduled MRI, we ask that you do not wear any jewelry, no hair pieces or clips/pins and remove all piercings prior to your arrival. Everyone will be required to change completely into the hospital clothing provided. Additional removal of items such as hearing aids, dentures, medication patches, glasses and other personal items will be removed and secured prior to the MRI exam. Please refrain from scented products.

You may be receiving an intravenous injection of contrast dye (non-iodinated dye) for your exam, please notify the booking clerk and/or MRI Technologist of any renal impairment or if currently on dialysis, a consent form will be given on the day of your exam. If you have a known allergy to MRI contrast dye, please discuss with your referring physician, as additional preparation prior to your MRI may be required.

Claustrophobia is a common concern for patients undergoing an MRI. If you are claustrophobic, please discuss with your referring physician prior to your MRI to determine if medication would be required to help. Please note that we will not be able to provide any medication for claustrophobia at the hospital, this needs to be done by your physician prior to your arrival.

Some MRI procedures require not eating for 4 hours before your test. If this is the case, you will be given instructions by the booking clerk when your appointment is scheduled. This means **No Food or Drink** (including water) for 4 hours before. Small sips of water can be taken with medication, you can still take all required medications as normal.

Please limit the number of people with you as space in the department is very limited. All friends and family members will be required to wait in the main Diagnostic Imaging waiting room. Only if you require assistance, will you be allowed one person to accompany you into the MRI area waiting room, this is due to safety and limited seating.

As with any hospital, unforeseen emergency cases may cause delays. We schedule patients with a little wiggle room to account for most so as to keep you on time. In the event we are unusually delayed, we will let you know and ask for your patience.