

# Radiology Department

## MRI Information leaflet

### Introduction

You have been advised by your doctor to have a MRI scan. This leaflet will explain what the examination involves. It may not answer all your questions, so if you have any queries or concerns, please call the telephone number on your appointment letter. If you feel unhappy with any part of your care please ask to speak to the Superintendent Radiographer.

**Please read this leaflet carefully to ensure you successfully prepare for the examination.**

Please contact the X-ray Department if your weight is equal to or more than 152Kg (24 stone) – You may require an alternative examination.

### Points to remember

- Please bring any sprays or inhalers that you are taking with you to your appointment.
- If you are on medication from your doctor please continue to take it as normal.
- We also ask you to leave any valuable possessions at home.
- Please arrive in the department at least **20 minutes before** your appointment time so that we have time to go through your safety questionnaire and get you appropriately changed for your examination.
- If you are late for your appointment there is a possibility that we may not be able to scan you, in these instances you will be sent an appointment for another time.

### What is a MRI?

**MRI** is a test which uses a powerful magnet and a computer to produce detailed images of any part of the body. The MRI scanner does not use X-rays. This part of the examination will be performed by a radiographer

### Preparation

- It is recommended that you attend for your examination in clothing that contains no metal fastenings, zips or decoration. If this is not possible, a hospital gown will be provided.
- Please complete the enclosed safety questionnaire and bring it with you to your appointment.



## Patient Information

### Risks of the procedure

It is possible that you may have an allergic reaction if a contrast agent is used during the scan. You will be asked about allergies by the radiographer whilst checking through the safety questionnaire you have filled in.

No short term harmful effects have been found from MRI scans. The use of magnetic fields is not thought to be harmful although long term side effects are unknown.

### Safety

**Female patients aged 10 – 60 years** Although the risk for the unborn child is minimal, you will be asked to confirm that you are not pregnant before the examination can proceed. If you are pregnant there are some circumstances where the clinical value of a scan outweighs any risk connected to the scan. This will be decided in conjunction with the referring clinicians and yourself.

It may not be possible for certain patients to have this examination due to the strong magnetic field produced by the MRI scanner.

- Patients who have had pacemakers inserted, ear implants or surgical clips in your head or body should contact the MRI department using the telephone number on your appointment letter to check whether or not their scan can be performed.
- Patients who have had an accident involving metal fragments penetrating your eyes should contact the MRI department using the telephone number on your appointment letter. You will need to have a plain X-ray of your head to confirm there are no metal fragments remaining in your eyes. This must be arranged before your MRI scan can be safely performed.

### What will happen when I arrive?

- On arrival at the Radiology/ X-Ray Department, please report to the reception desk where you will be directed to the MRI department.
- If necessary you will be asked to undress and put on a suitable gown. Please feel free to bring your own dressing gown.
- Please try to leave all of your valuables at home as you will not be permitted to take them into the scan room with you. You will be asked to remove any credit cards, valuables and metal objects that are in your possession and they will remain with the radiographers whilst they perform the examination .
- You will also be asked to remove coloured contact lenses and hearing aids prior to the examination.
- A Radiographer or Radiology Department Assistant will go through the safety checklists with you.

### During your examination

#### MRI

- The radiographer will assist you onto the MRI scanner table which will move into the open ended MRI scanner. The radiographer operating the scanner can see

## Patient Information

you throughout the scan. It is important that you remain very still to ensure good quality images. The scan may take 20 minutes to one hour depending on the part of the body being examined.

- During the scanning you will hear rhythmic tapping sounds which may become quite loud; this is normal. You will be given headphones or earplugs to protect your ears from the noise.

### **After your examination**

- Once the examination is complete you can get dressed and go home
- If you have any problems after the examination please see your GP

### **How do I get the results?**

The results will not be given to you immediately. They will be sent to the doctor who referred you to us for this examination.

### **Other Sources of Information:**

For general information about radiology departments visit the Royal College of Radiologists website: [www.goingfora.com](http://www.goingfora.com)

For information about the effects of X-rays read the NRPB publication: "X-rays how safe are they?" on the Health Protection Agency website: [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk)

Please note that the views expressed in these websites do not necessarily reflect the views of UHCW NHS Trust or the NHS.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact the telephone number on your appointment letter and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

### **Document History**

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## Patient Information

### MRI Department Safety Questionnaire:

<b>NAME:</b>			
<b>HOSPITAL NO. OF PATIENT:</b>	<b>MALE / FEMALE</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
1. Do you have a heart pacemaker or artificial heart valve, or have you had a heart operation? If yes, please give details:			
2. Have you ever had any operations on your head or spine? Do you have a hydrocephalus shunt? If yes is it programmable? If yes please give details:			
3. Have you ever had any operations which involved the use of metal implants (e.g. clips, pins or plates) or do you have <b>ANY</b> implants anywhere in your body? If yes please give details:			
4. Have you <b>EVER</b> had an accident involving metal fragments penetrating your eyes?			
5. Have you <b>EVER</b> had an accident involving metal fragments (e.g. bullets, gun shot or shrapnel) anywhere in your body? If yes please give details:			
6. Do you have a hearing aid?			
<b>Female only:</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
11. Is there any possibility you may be pregnant? Number of weeks: .....			

- I hereby consent to enter the MRI examination room. I understand that I need to remove all loose metal objects, credit cards and electronic equipment from my person prior to entering the scanner room.

**Signature:** ..... **Date:** .....

**To be completed by MR Staff ONLY and then scanned onto CRIS**

Potential Contraindication: e-GFR	Accepted by (Drs Signature) & date
Accepted for scanning by:	Patients Weight: