

Patient Information Sheet: MRI Scan – Getting you ready for your appointment:

Your primary care provider has ordered an MRI scan 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.

1. Scheduling your MRI Scan.

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).

2. The day of your MRI Scan.

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 (including your wedding band), 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 as many undergarments have metal threads in them. 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 using from scented products prior to your appointment

3. MRI Scan with Intravenous Injection

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 scan may be required.

4. Concerns about MRI Scan?

Claustrophobia is a common concern for patients undergoing an MRI scan. If you are claustrophobic, please discuss with your referring physician prior to your MRI scan 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.

5. MRI Scan Preparation

Some MRI scans 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.

6. Other things to keep in mind

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. If you require assistance, you will 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 to accommodate any unforeseen delays. Our aim is to keep you on time. In the event that we are unusually delayed, we will let you know and ask for your patience.

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Take a look at this short video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyPc3etf2g0> to get a glimpse of what to expect during your visit. The video takes you from the Smiths Falls Site Main Entrance through to the MRI Department on the lower level.

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