

Patient Information Leaflet

Having an MRI Scan

**Produced By: Diagnostic Imaging**

**Date: May 2012  
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## **What is an MRI Scan?**

MRI stands for Magnetic Resonance Imaging and this is an easy and simple examination for you. An MRI uses strong magnets to produce a computer image, which will help the doctors to plan the best treatment for you.

Extensive evaluation has shown no long term side effects related to MRI. However, the magnetic field can cause problems for patients with metallic implants. Although these metallic implants or objects may cause you no problems, they can interfere with the scanner or in some cases be hazardous to your safety. This is why it is important to fill in the questionnaire carefully when it is sent to you with your appointment and return it to us.

## **When shouldn't you have an MRI Scan?**

You will not be allowed to have an MRI Scan if you have a cardiac pacemaker, cochlear implants, brain aneurysm clips, neuro stimulators or metal fragments in your eyes. Some other metallic implants may not be compatible. You must identify any of these.

We may not be able to carry out the scan if there is any possibility of you being pregnant. You must tell us if this is a possibility.

**Before entering the MR environment or MR system room, you must remove ALL metallic objects including hearing aids, dentures, partial plates, keys, phone, glasses, hair pins, barrettes, jewellery, body piercing jewellery, watch, credit cards, bank cards, coins, pens, clothing with metal fasteners and clothing with metallic threads.**

For most examinations you will be asked to change into a patient gown. This is to ensure that no metallic items enter the magnetic field, or degrade any imaging.

If you have any body piercing jewellery these **MUST** be removed prior to attending for your procedure. If they are not, you may not be permitted to have your scan and will have to be re booked at a later date once they have been removed. Please note that the Radiographers do not have the facilities or equipment to remove them for you.

Fillings and dental work should be fine and you need not worry.

Please also notify the Radiographers if you have any tattoos, there is a small risk that they can heat up during the procedure. You will still be allowed to have your scan but we must make you aware of the small risk.

## **What happens?**

During the scan you lie on a bed for between 15 minutes and an hour. You will not be totally enclosed. The Radiographer will explain the procedure to you and will be able to talk to you during the scan. You will hear a knocking noise from the scanner and this is part of the normal procedure. We will play music for you during the scan and if you have a favourite CD or tape you can bring this in to listen to. The scans are not painful and are very straightforward.

If you are relaxed and still, we are usually able to obtain the information quicker. Occasionally you will need to be given a small injection, which helps to produce a clearer image.

You will be required to wear earplugs or other hearing protection during the MR procedure to prevent possible problems or hazards related to acoustic noise.

Do not worry! An MRI is a straightforward, routine procedure, and the staff will look after you.

### **After your examination**

A Radiologist (specialist doctor) will report on your scan. This report will then be sent to the doctor who requested your scan, usually within 10 working days.

### **Finally...**

If you have any questions, fears or doubts please ask us

Diagnostic Imaging

tel: 534671

9.30-12:30 and 13:30-16:30

Ask to speak to a MRI Senior Radiographer.

It is in our interest as well as yours that you are comfortable and feel as relaxed as possible.

### **Access to Health Records by Diagnostic Staff**

As a patient undergoing tests as part of a diagnostic procedure information about you may be accessed by other healthcare professionals. It is normal practice in these circumstances for your consent to be implied as part of your agreement to have the test or tests performed.

### **Accidental over exposure of radiation**

Despite all safeguards, medical exposures can occur where the actual dose is greater than was intended. The regulations governing these exposures are either IR(ME)R 2000 or IRR 99. In the event of an over exposure the incident will be reported to the Radiation Protection Advisor. It will be down to the discretion of the RPA as to whether there is a clinical requirement to inform any patient of an overexposure.

**If you require this leaflet in another language, large print or another format, please contact the Quality Team, telephone 01983 534850, who will advise you.**

Valuables should not be brought into the hospital. If patients have to bring in valuable items they should ask a nurse to store them safely and request a receipt for the items. You may not be able to have the valuable items returned if the time of discharge from hospital is out of hours.

We are sorry but the Trust cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to items not given for safe keeping.

You can get further information on all sorts of health issues through NHS interactive available through Sky TV or online at: <http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/>

For Health advice and out of hours GP service please call the NHS 111 service on: 111

### **We Value Your Views On Our Service**

If you wish to comment on the care which you, your relative or friend has received, we will be pleased to hear from you. Please speak to the person in charge of the ward, clinic or service in the first instance or ask them to contact the Quality Team. If you wish to contact them directly, telephone on 534850.

Alternatively you may prefer to write to:

Chief Executive  
Isle Of Wight NHS Trust  
St Mary's Hospital  
Newport  
Isle of Wight  
PO30 5TG

All NHS sites are no smoking areas.

If you would like help and advice to stop smoking please call: Freephone 0800 169 0 169 to talk to the NHS Smoking Helpline.

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