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MRI safety

Information for ward staff

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a reliable and relatively safe diagnostic imaging procedure. However, the use of strong magnetic fields means there is information that the MRI department needs to know and preparation of the patient is required prior to their arrival to ensure their safety.

- Details of previous operations and dates of any recent operations
- Details of any implants such as a cardiac pacemaker; a joint replacement such as a hip or a knee; metal screws, clips, rods or pins; shunts; vascular stents; or a cochlear (ear) implant, a glucose monitoring device, or an insulin pump
- Any incidents where metal has gone into the patient's eyes
- Any other known metal in the body such as shrapnel
- Pregnancy status
- Is the patient receiving oxygen therapy
- Any known allergies
- Method of transport
- Any current infection risk
- Do they have hearing aids?



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Patient preparation

- Remove any piercings, jewellery and any loose metallic objects from patients clothing.
- Ideally, they should be changed into a patient gown
- Remove any non-essential devices attached to the patient such as syringe pumps and all metallic objects such as ECG leads
- If possible catheter bags should be emptied in order to avoid any spillage in the MR scanner
- Check and replace any dressings that have metallic threads or are impregnated with silver
- If appropriate, ensure the patient has received pain relief medication prior to leaving the ward
- Patient personal items should be left on the ward

Safety screening questionnaire

The patient will be required to complete and sign a safety questionnaire (if the patient requires reading glasses they should bring them for their MRI appointment)

In the event that the patient does not have the capacity to complete the questionnaire, please contact the MRI department for further advice regarding the local policy relating to capacity and consent

Patient escorts

A patient may require a member of staff, a carer or comforter to accompany them. This person must then remove all loose metallic objects and inform the MRI department if they have any implants.

If they are required to remain in the scan room with the patient, they will also need to complete and sign a safety questionnaire.

