If you need to cancel your appointment, please call 773-702-9444 or 773-834-7041.

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Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
Patient Instruction Sheet

**Patient Name:**

**Exam Day/Date:**

**Exam Time:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Type</th>
<th>Exam Location</th>
<th>Contrast</th>
<th>Sedation</th>
<th>Difficult Veins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head</td>
<td>DCAM 1C</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes*</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chest</td>
<td>Comer</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdomen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pelvis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arms</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Legs</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Preparation**

- Bring medicine prescribed by your doctor with you.

**All Patients**

- Check in at the Radiology reception desk **30 minutes** before your scheduled appointment time to register.
- Depending on the area being scanned an MRI lasts anywhere from 30 minutes to 2 hours.
- Bring the following with you:
  - ✅ physician referral
  - ✅ health insurance information
  - **Note:** Please contact your insurance company to make sure you do not need to be pre-certified.
    - If you have insurance other than:
      - Illinois Department of Public Aid (IDPA)
      - Medicare
      - University of Chicago Health Plan (UCHP)
- Leave jewelry and/or metal objects at home.
- Dressing rooms with lockers are available on site.
  - ✅ Remove eye make up, wigs, hairpieces, hair extensions and hairpins.
- If you are late for your appointment, we will make every effort to perform your exam, but:
  - ✅ You may have to wait until we finish patients who arrived on time.
  - ✅ We may have to cancel and reschedule your appointment.

**Patients Requiring Sedation**

- Only your doctor can prescribe oral sedation or pain medication for you.
- If your doctor has prescribed oral sedation or pain medication:
  - ✅ Arrive at the Radiology reception desk **45 minutes** before your scheduled appointment to register.
  - ✅ Bring the medicine with you.
  - ✅ **DO NOT** take the medicine until the MRI staff tells you to take it.
  - ✅ Make arrangements to have someone assist you after your procedure.
  - **Note:** If you do not have someone with you, your exam will be rescheduled.
- Plan to rest for the remainder of the day.
- For 24 hours after the exam **DO NOT**:
  - ✅ Drive
  - ✅ Operate machinery
  - ✅ Make important (legal) decisions

**Patients with Difficult Veins**

- Make your appointment on a weekday morning.
- Arrive at the Radiology reception desk **1 hour** before your scheduled appointment to register.
What is Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)?
Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a technique for creating pictures of the body. Unlike an x-ray exam, it does not use radiation. Instead, a large magnet, a radio transmitter, receiver, and a computer are used to create pictures of body structures and organs.

Can anyone have an MRI?
Patients with some implanted devices may not have an MRI. Possible implanted devices include:

- Pacemaker
- Some aneurysm clips
- Inner ear implants
- Early pregnancy
- Bone or neuro stimulations
- Metal shavings and/or BB's in your eyes
- Permanent eyeliner

Routine dental work does not pose a problem with the MRI procedure. Women who are in the early stages of pregnancy should not have an MRI.

An MRI requires the patient to lie still to complete the exam. Infants, small children, claustrophobic patients and/or those with severe pain or physical limitations may require sedation to complete an MRI exam. **Sedation must be prescribed by your doctor before you arrive for your exam.**

How is the test performed?
An MRI exam is performed by a technologist who is trained in the use of MRI equipment. The technologist will help you lie down and get comfortable on the scanning table. Small devices may be placed around the body area being scanned. These are special coils, which will improve the quality of the pictures. You will be moved smoothly inside the scanner on a motorized tabletop. An audio system makes it possible for you to talk to the technologist during the exam. The technologist can see and hear you at all times.

During the exam it is important that you lay perfectly still since even slight movement can make the images blurry. You will not feel anything unusual or painful during the exam, but you will hear some knocking noises, which may be faint or loud. These are normal sounds and indicate that the scanner is operating correctly. Many people actually fall asleep during the exam. Several sets of pictures are usually taken, each lasting from 2 – 15 minutes. A complete exam may take one hour or more.

Sometimes, the doctor may order an injection of an MRI contrast agent. This injection is given by a nurse or technologist in a vein in your hand or arm. Reactions to MRI contrast agents are rare.

When will I get the results?
The radiologist will read your exam and a report will be sent to your doctor within three (3) days. Your doctor will discuss the results with you.