

Information about your MRI Scan



Name:

Notes:

Diana, Princess of Wales
Scarcho Road
Grimsby
DN33 2BA
03033 306999
www.nlg.nhs.uk

Scunthorpe General Hospital
Cliff Gardens
Scunthorpe
DN15 7BH
03033 306999
www.nlg.nhs.uk

Goole & District Hospital
Woodland Avenue
Goole
DN14 6RX
03033 306999
www.nlg.nhs.uk

Information for patients

Magnetic Resonance Imaging uses a very strong magnet, radio-waves and a computer to get cross-sectional pictures or 'slices' of the internal organs and tissues of the body.

What is a MRI scanner like?

The scanner is like a large packet of 'polo mints'. It is open at both ends with lights inside and a microphone so the Radiographer can see and hear you throughout the examination.

What happens before my scan?

The MRI Radiographer will give you a full explanation of the examination and will check your safety questionnaire prior to commencing your scan.

Please complete the MRI safety questionnaire and bring it with you when you attend your appointment. **If you answered YES to any questions in SECTION A ONLY on the safety questionnaire please contact the department as early as possible. Failure to do so may result in your appointment being cancelled on the day.**

It is very important that you look closely at any questionnaires included in this appointment letter. Please let us know if there are any problems related to the questions asked. Some patients may not be suitable for MRI scans.

Should I bring somebody with me?

It is fine to do bring somebody with you.

Please note – we have a limited waiting area, so if you bring more than 1 person, they may not be able to sit with you. They may need to sit in our main waiting room.

If you have a Mobility Problem

If you have mobility difficulties the Doctor who arranged your MRI will have told us and we have a limited range of mobility aids which can be taken into the MRI scan room.

What happens during my scan?

You will be asked to lie on the scanning couch. A piece of equipment may be placed around the area to be scanned. The area of your body to be scanned will be moved to the centre of the scanner. It is important that you remain still during the scan and for some scans you may be asked to hold your breath.

The MRI scanner does make some noise when it is doing your scan but this is normal and you will be given earplugs or headphones.

Information for patients

Will I have to undress?

You may have to change into a gown prior to your scan. Please remove all loose metal and jewellery before your scan. Lockers are provided but please leave valuables at home. You will also be asked to remove metallic false teeth and hearing aids. Please avoid wearing makeup.

Can I eat and drink before my scan?

Most scans do not require you to have any special diet instructions.

However if we do need you to change your diet we will send you a separate diet sheet with your appointment letter.

Does it hurt?

No, the scan is painless and the MRI Radiographer will be able to see you at all times during the scan.

Music may be played to you via headphones during the procedure. If you so wish, you can bring a CD of your favourite music and we may be able to play it during the scan.

Will I have an injection?

For some scans it will be necessary for you to have an injection of a colourless fluid into a vein in your arm. This is to help the Radiologist (doctor) interpret your pictures.

Some pelvis and abdominal scans require you to have an injection of Buscopan. Buscopan is a smooth muscle relaxant that stops the bowel from moving for a short time to enable us to get clear images. If you are to have Buscopan it will be indicated on your appointment letter. It is recommended that you do not drive for 2 hours after being given Buscopan as it can temporarily cause blurred vision, please bring someone with you (although traveling home on public transport should be fine).

Please tell a member of staff if you have any problems with your kidneys.

How long does it take?

Your scan is tailored to suit your needs so may vary in time but generally you should allow one hour for your scan.

Are there any after effects?

There should be no after effects. You may eat and drink normally and resume your day-to-day routine once the scan is over.

What if I am pregnant?

If you are pregnant or suspect you may be pregnant, please ring us for advice prior to your appointment.

Information for patients

What about the results?

After the MRI scan, the Consultant Radiologist will study your scan images and send a report to your doctor who referred you for the scan.

What happens if I am on medication?

Please continue to use any medication prescribed for you.

How can you help us?

If you are unable to attend for whatever reason, please inform the department so that your appointment can be offered to another patient.

If you are admitted into hospital please inform the ward staff of this appointment.

Additional Information

If you have any concerns regarding the procedure, or queries regarding appointments, please contact the relevant MRI Department on:

For Grimsby Hospital MRI Department: 03033 302716

For Scunthorpe Hospital MRI Department: 03033 302917

Although we do our best to make sure you are scanned at your appointment time this may not be possible in the event of an emergency.

Any Comments, Compliments, Concerns or Complaints

If you have any other concerns please talk to your nurse, therapist or doctor. Our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) are available on 03033 306518 (Grimsby, Scunthorpe and Goole). You can also contact nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net.

As a Trust we value equality of access to our information and services, therefore alternative formats available on request at nlg-tr.interpreters@nhs.net

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