MRI Exams

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), or nuclear magnetic resonance imaging (NMRI), is primarily a medical imaging technique most commonly used in radiology to visualize the structure and function of the body. It provides detailed images of the body in any plane. MRI provides much greater contrast between the different soft tissues of the body than computed tomography (CT) does, making it especially useful in neurological (brain), musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, and oncological (cancer) imaging. Unlike CT, it uses no ionizing radiation, but uses a powerful magnetic field to align the nuclear magnetization of (usually) hydrogen atoms in water in the body.

**For All MRI Procedures:**

**Patient Instructions:**

- None
- Please note that some patients are claustrophobic and may be uncomfortable in the magnet. The opening is 24 inches in diameter and approximately 3 feet deep.

**Scheduling Instructions:**

- Appointment Required: To schedule call the MRI Department @ 204-6510 (Anissa) or The Radiology Department @ 237-9203.
- Completed MRI Order Form must accompany patient and can be faxed to Department at 237-9311.
- Many insurances require Pre-Certification should be done prior to the exam by the ordering office (See current Pre-certification procedures).
- Patient should be instructed to arrive 30 minutes prior to the appointment time.
- Total estimated time for Procedure: 30 - 40 minutes.

**IMPORTANT:** To expedite scheduling, please have the following patient information BEFORE scheduling:

1. If the patient has had previous MRI, CT, or X-ray of the imaging area, please notify us and if possible have a copy of the report faxed to 237-9311
2. History of Diabetes, Kidney Disease?

   - Is the Patient 65 year of age?
   - If the answer is “yes”, the patient will need to have a serum creatinine drawn ideally 3 days prior to the exam (if one was not done < 30 days prior to exam) so that this is available when the patient presents.

Please note if the patient has a pacemaker, wires or defibrillator, any metal clips, or other metal in the body. These can interfere with the procedure.