



420 Summit Crossing Place, Gastonia
209 Park Street, Suite 300, Belmont

MRI Exam Preparation

Due to the strong magnet used in the MRI scanner, it is extremely important for the safety of the patient to obtain accurate information before performing the MRI exam.

The system does not use ionizing radiation, simply radiofrequency waves and magnetic fields.

Here is a link with more specific MRI Safety information:

http://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/safety/index.cfm?pg=sfty_mr#use

The actual exam time lasts on average 30 to 45 minutes. The complete length of stay from arrival to departure is about one hour.

Registration is completed just prior to the start of the MRI exam. The MRI scan table has a weight limit of 550 pounds.

Please review the following information below.

Patient:

- Please bring a copy of your photo ID and insurance card(s).
- Please inform us of any types of surgery and/or any known metal or implant inside the body.
- Please leave personal belongings at home.
- Please limit makeup and jewelry, and please no makeup for Head and Neck exams.
- Please try to wear clothes without zippers and metallic embroidery if possible.
- Please let us know if you have any special needs while under our care.
- Please let us know if you could possibly be pregnant, or are currently breastfeeding.
- Please do not eat or drink anything for 4 hours prior to your exam time for abdomen and/or pelvis related studies only. All other exams do not require fasting.
- If you feel you are claustrophobic, please discuss with your physician the option of receiving an oral medication to take just prior to your arrival and have a driver bring you to and from your MRI appointment.
 - The scanner is quite spacious, with a 70 centimeter opening and much shorter overall length, which greatly reduces the claustrophobia effect.
 - Most exams from the waist down can be done feet first. Head and neck to mid chest usually require to be done head first.

Provider:

Please provide the following patient information when scheduling:

- MRI is body part specific. Please list the exact area to be scanned on your order.
- Date of birth; social security number; phone number.
- Patient height, weight.
- Any chance of pregnancy.
- Previous surgeries, especially to area of interest.
- History of cancer
- History of metal or foreign implants within the body from any surgeries or accidents.
- If the patient has worked around metal (welder, machine shop), he/she must arrive 30 minutes prior to appointment for x-ray clearance (at no charge).
- Patients with pacemakers, certain types of bio-stimulators, drug infusion devices, or ferrous (magnetic) aneurysm clips cannot have an MRI exam.
- If patient is claustrophobic please discuss the options of an oral sedative to take prior to the exam time.
- If patient requires a sedative, referring physician should order prescription (PO meds).
- Please bring any relevant films and/or reports from non CaroMont facilities if possible.



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Exam Ordering

- The table weight limit is 550 pounds.
- An Order Form is also available online and is submitted electronically via secure email.
- You can also download an Order form (link), and fax it to us at 704 671.7755.
- It is most common to order exams as either *without* (w/o) (no contrast) or *without & with contrast*, when contrast is requested.
- Normally the only exams ordered as *with contrast* would be MRA (MR Angiography) of the neck or abdomen or pelvis. MRA of the Head does not require contrast.
- Arthrograms of the hip or shoulder or of a joint are ordered as *with contrast*.
- Currently some newer technology should be available soon which will further improve vessel visualization without the use of contrast materials, which may be beneficial for some patients.

Contrast Injection

- Some exams require the injection of a contrast material to help improve visualization of the brain, spine, and vascular system to name a few. The medication is FDA approved and is considered quite safe. It is administered intravenously usually halfway through the exam. Please be well hydrated on the day of your exam unless we request otherwise.
- Patients with known diabetes, kidney dysfunction, cancer or anyone over the age of 60 may require us to obtain a simple blood test upon arrival to check the creatinine level as an extra precaution to assure proper usage of the contrast media. We can accept a creatinine level done at another medical office if it has been completed in the past 10 days.
- Please let us know if you are currently breastfeeding. It is recommended to discontinue this up to 72 hours after contrast injection.

Routine Radiologist preferred MRI Exam Protocol for MRISC

The best method is to order as 'MRI ____ with and/or without contrast' and add a note stating: 'Contrast at Radiologist discretion'. This allows greater flexibility and does not require another call to the insurance company to change an authorization for example. However the referring physician always certainly has the right to order with any specific request as indicated.

A patient having a history of known cancer, infection, abscess, cyst, or mass most often require the use of contrast, where the exam should be ordered as '*without and/or with contrast*'.

Examples:

- MRI Brain without and with contrast. 70553. Most all brains need to be done without and with contrast
- MRA Brain or MRV Brain without contrast. 70554 MRA Brain does not require contrast
- MRA Neck with contrast. 70548
- MRI Lumbar spine without and with contrast for history of low back surgery. 72158
- MRI Abdomen and MRI Pelvis are most always done as without and with contrast
 - Abdomen without and with contrast: 74183
 - Pelvis without and with contrast: 72917
- MRA Abdomen and MRA Pelvis are most always done as without and with contrast
 - MRA Abdomen without or with contrast: 74185
 - MRA Pelvis without or with contrast: 72198
 - MRCP does not require contrast. 74181
 - MRA Renals can be done as without or with contrast – the same code is used – 74185.
 - Patients with renal failure and/or high creatinine, low GFR values can be done without contrast.
- MR Arthrography of any joint is always ordered as *with contrast*. Upper 73222, Lower 73722