
Diagnostic Services – Department of Radiology – Diagnostic Division

SUBJECT/TITLE: MRI SAFETY PRACTICES

PURPOSE: To identify protocols to maintain patient's safety and prevent injury while they are in the MRI department.

DEFINITION: None

POLICY: The MR Division of the Department of Radiology will develop protocols to define patient safety practices.

PROCEDURE:

A. Patient Magnetic Field Safety

1. All patients and family members will be screened before entering the MRI scan room.
2. All patients and their family members will be required to empty their pockets and lock the contents in a patient locker before entering the MRI scan room.
3. All patients will be required to change into hospital gowns before entering the MRI scan room. If patients are unable to change due to patient status, clothing will be thoroughly examined for any non-compatible material or objects.
4. Patient's skin should not come in contact with the bore of the scanner. Use a cloth barrier or non-conducting foam between the patient and the bore of the MRI scanner.

B. Equipment Safety

5. Only non-ferrous carts, wheel chairs, and IV poles may enter the MRI scan room.
6. Only MRI safe equipment may enter the MRI scan room.
7. Only MRI safe ECG patches are allowed on patients while they are being scanned. All other non-MRI ECG patches must be removed prior to the MRI scan.
8. All loops in cables from patient monitors must be avoided to prevent burns to the patient.
9. Only non-ferrous fire extinguishers are allowed in the MRI department.

C. Hearing Protection

10. All patients will be provided hearing protection. All patients will either receive ear plugs or head phones to protect their hearing.
11. All patients' family members that go into the MRI scan room will be required to wear ear plugs.

D. Contrast Safety

1. All patients will be screened for NSF as dictated in the MR contrast policy.

E. Patient Communication

1. All patients will be given the squeeze ball while they are in the MR scanner if they are physically able to hold it.
2. All scanners will have an intercom system to talk to the patient.