

Diagnostic Services – Radiology

DS-R-05.54

SUBJECT/TITLE: SCREENING PATIENTS FOR MRI PROCEDURES

PURPOSE: To ensure that patients are properly screened when a MRI procedure is ordered to prevent injury from implants and devices in their bodies

DEFINITIONS: None

POLICY:

Various implants and devices have been deemed unsafe in the magnetic resonance environment. Patients with these implants or devices in their bodies are contraindicated for the MRI procedure. It is imperative that all patients are properly screened prior to undergoing a MRI procedure. Patients will be screened on two separate occasions; once when the form is completed, and again prior to taking the patient to the MRI scan room by the MR technologist.

PROCEDURE:

- A. An order is completed for a MRI procedure.
- B. Upon receipt of the order, Radiology staff will tube the [MRI Screening Form](#) to the ordering unit. The form will have the appropriate patient identification completed prior to sending the form.
 1. Blank forms will be available on line to be used in cases where the form cannot be tubed.
- C. Completion of the screening form is mandatory prior to the MRI procedure
 1. Conscious/mentally capable patients:
 - a. The patient will complete entire form or, if the patient is unable to write or read, a family member/responsible caregiver may complete the entire form with direction from the patient.
 2. Non-emergent patients who are unconscious and/or mentally unable to complete entire form:
 - a. The ordering LIP or his LIP designee will complete the entire form, sign and print their name on the form, **or**

- b. Individuals with Power of Attorney will complete the entire form, sign and print their name on the form.
 3. Emergent patients who are unconscious and/or mentally unable to complete the entire form:
 - a. The ordering LIP or his LIP designee will complete the entire form, sign and print their name on the form, **or**
 - b. If information about the patient's history is not immediately available, the ordering LIP or his LIP designee must document *in the Medical Record*:
 - To the best of their knowledge, the patient has no known contraindications for a MRI exam and this is an emergency and acquire AP/Lateral Skull, AP Chest/Abdomen/Pelvis X-rays, **or**
 - c. Individuals with Power of Attorney will complete the entire form, sign and print their name on the form.
 4. If there are any questions regarding the accurate completion of the screening form, the ordering LIP must be consulted.
- D. The completed form is tubed back to Radiology (tubed number: 301).
- E. The MRI technologist reviews the form.
1. If after initial review it is deemed that the procedure can safely be performed, Radiology contacts the unit and the patient is transported to Radiology. The form will then be reviewed with the patient, if they are able. When all screening questions have been verified with the patient and it is deemed that the procedure can safely be performed, the MRI is completed.
 2. If there are safety concerns related to the performance of the MRI, a Radiology physician will be notified. The Radiology physician will consult with the ordering LIP to decide if the procedure should be performed.
 3. The ordering LIP takes ultimate responsibility for patients who are unconscious and/or mentally unable to complete the entire form for the purposes of screening prior to the MRI procedure.
- F. Pre-MRI orbit x-rays for patients with history of metal in the eyes:
1. Must be performed if the patient has not gone to a LIP to have the metal removed from their eye.
 2. Must be performed if there is known metal in the eye, or if there is uncertainty that there is metal in the eye, and there are no x-rays available for viewing.

3. If the patient needs x-rays, a PA with eyes up and eyes down, plus a lateral must be performed.
 4. Pre-MRI x-rays are not needed if the patient states that a LIP has removed the metal in their eye.
- G. MRI procedures on patients with implants or devices that the manufacturer deems unsafe in the MR environment:
1. If an ordering LIP wants a MRI on a patient that has an implant or device that the manufacturer deems unsafe in a MR environment, or any conditional recommendations from the manufacturer cannot be met, the patient must sign a procedural consent form after the Radiologist has explained the risks to the patient.
 - a. The ordering LIP or his LIP designee must document in the medical record stating the necessity of performing the MR procedure with the unsafe implant or device.
 - b. A staff radiologist must approve the MR procedure before it can be performed.
 - c. The patient must sign a procedural consent form after the Radiologist/LIP has explained the risks to the patient.
 2. If implants or devices described in #1 above are to be scanned on a routine basis:
 - a. The ordering LIP or LIP designee must document in the medical record stating the necessity of performing the MR procedure with the unsafe implant or device.
 - b. A staff radiologist must approve the MR procedure before it can be performed.
 - c. The patient must sign a procedural consent form after the Radiologist/LIP has explained the risks
 - d. A protocol must be written and followed that identifies what precautions must be met to scan the patient as safely as possible.
- H. Final determination of whether or not to scan any given patient with any given implant or device or foreign body is made by the responsible attending MR radiologist or the MR Director.

Source: Radiology

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