

## Patient Preparation for a MRI Exam with Contrast

### Preparation for your MRI Appointment:

- You may eat a light meal up to 4 hours before your check-in time/prep time. No solid foods 4 hours before your appointment time.
- Unless otherwise instructed, you may have clear fluids up to 1-hour of your appointment. Do not have anything to drink 1-hour before your appointment time.
- If you have experienced previous nausea or vomiting with Gadolinium in the past, contact your referring physician concerning an anti-emetic prescription.
- Take your medications as usual unless otherwise instructed.

### Contraindications for MRI Procedures:

- If you have a pacemaker and/or Automatic Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (AICD) you cannot have an MRI unless it is proven safe prior to your examination.
- If you have Cerebral Aneurysm Clips, contact us immediately. Depending on the type of clip, we may not be able to perform an MRI.
- If you have had stents placed in your body within the last two months, you cannot have an MRI.
- If you have a Neurostimulator. Most Neurostimulators are not safe for MRI. You CANNOT have an MRI unless your unit has been identified as one that can be scanned, and if so, under specific conditions. This would need to be preplanned with a call from your physician and the details addressed prior to scheduling.
- If you have metal in your body (artificial joints, metallic valves) you must let us know when scheduling. You may not be able to have the scan.
- If you EVER had exposure to metal fragments in or around the eyes. Or work with metal such as arc-welding, grinding, drilling metal, tool and die work, please inform the staff before the exam occurs.
- If you are claustrophobic and your physician orders sedation, you must bring a person who will drive you home.
- **Please let us know if you have a pacemaker, any metallic foreign bodies or if you are claustrophobic.**

### Bloodwork Requirements:

- Prior to your examination, a nurse from the Radiology Department will call you to determine if bloodwork prior to the MRI exam is needed.
- Blood tests (BUN and Creatinine) might be needed in a certain time frame.



Radiology Department: 1-888-656-4723

**MRI Exam Day:**

- You can bring a music CD of your own to listen to during the exam.
- The exam will take 45 minutes to 2 hours depending on the exam ordered.
- The results will be forwarded to your physician, who will explain them to you.
- **If you were given a sedative, you will not be allowed to drive yourself home. Please make arrangements for transportation.**

**Contrast Media Injection:**

Your health care provider has requested an MRI scan with the injection of a gadolinium based contrast agent (GBCA) into the body. The contrast will be given through a small needle placed in a vein (IV). The contrast improves the diagnostic accuracy of the MRI scan compared to an exam without using it.

**Precautions:**

Tell your MRI staff if you:

- Have you ever had a severe reaction to intravenous contrast?
- Have been pre-medicated or need to be pre-medicated for a known contrast allergy
- Have a history of Diabetes.
- Have a history of renal disease.
- Are fasting for any other tests.
- Are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- Have fluid retention due to kidney or heart conditions