



# Referring a patient for an MRI scan

## What does the MRI department need to know?

Due to the strong magnetic fields used in MRI, the staff in the MRI suite need to be informed of any implants or devices before allowing the patient to enter the MRI scanning room. Certain implants can result in serious, and sometimes fatal, consequences when they interact with the magnetic fields, whilst others may affect the image quality.

All implants should be declared. These will include: cardiac pacemaker; a joint replacement such as a hip or a knee; metal screws, clips, rods or pins; shunts; or a cochlear (ear) implant. It is important to note any history of metal in the eyes.

It is also helpful for the MRI radiographers to know in advance if your patient has any additional needs (eg requires a hoist/language line, etc) or their BMI is  $>30$ , because the individual's size impacts on them fitting comfortably and safely through the bore of the MRI scanner.

Please complete the safety section on the MRI referral form and provide details of implanted devices and recent operations, including the date and place of surgery.

This will help departments provide timely appointments and prevent patients being unable to have their MRI scan because of insufficient information.

Thank you for your help.