

Your doctor has referred you for a MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scan.

## **What is MRI?**

A MRI scan uses a strong magnetic field and computer to build up a picture of the inside of the body.

## **Before your MRI Scan**

**For your own safety and to avoid a wasted journey it is essential you fill in the enclosed MRI Safety Checklist Questionnaire. Please bring the completed questionnaire with you. If you have any questions about being suitable for a MRI scan please contact the department (see contact details on the back page).**

You cannot have a MRI scan if you have any of the following:

- Cardiac Pacemaker
- Cochlear (ear) Implant
- A metal aneurysm clip in the brain
- Metallic fragments in the eye
- Certain Mechanical Implants.

## **Diabetes**

If you are diabetic please continue to take any medication as usual.

## **Female Patients**

If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant please contact the department (see contact details on the back page).

If you are breastfeeding please contact the department as you may need an injection of contrast agent (dye) which means you will be unable to breastfeed for a period of time after your MRI, usually 24 hours.

## **Do I need to prepare?**

No. There is no special preparation.

You can eat and drink as normal and take any prescribed medicines, unless your doctor tells you otherwise.

We may ask you to change into a hospital gown. We may ask you to remove dentures, jewellery, hearing aids, hairpins and eye makeup.

Please do not bring any valuables to your scan.

### **What happens during the scan?**

We will ask you to lie on a comfortable couch, which we then move into the magnet.

We will ask you to keep your body perfectly still.

You will not experience any discomfort, but during the scan you may hear some buzzing or tapping noises, which are perfectly harmless.

The radiographer operating the scanner will be able to see and hear you throughout the scan. You will also have a buzzer which you can press if you have any problems and the radiographer will talk to you.

You may bring a CD to listen to during the scan.

### **How long does the scan last?**

The scan may take between 30 minutes and 2 hours. You can leave immediately after the MRI Scan.

### **When will I know the results?**

A radiologist (a specialised doctor) will review your scans and send the results to the person who referred you for the test. Your referrer will make arrangements to tell you the result.

### **Any other questions?**

Please ask the radiographer in the MRI Department before or during your scan.

### **Your appointment**

If you can't make this appointment please tell us as soon as possible – we can arrange another appointment and give your appointment to another patient.

Please be on time when you come for your scan.

Call us if you need advice.

### **Contact Centre Telephone Number**

0141 347 8379

[www.nhsgg.org.uk](http://www.nhsgg.org.uk)