

# MRI

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Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a non-invasive procedure that uses powerful magnets and radio waves to create detailed images of the body. Unlike conventional radiography and CT, no radiation is used. The facility features a large bore size unit, which better accommodates bariatric patients. The table weight limit is 550 pounds. All MRI technologists are American Registry of Radiologic Technologists® with advanced registry in MRI.

## Contact Information and Hours

(865) 373-0043

Fax: (865) 373-1516

Hours: Monday – Friday, 6:30 a.m. -11 p.m.

Saturday, 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m

## Services offered

- Orthopedic (joints)
- Neuro (Brain and Spine)
- Abdominal
- Vascular
- Breast
- Cardiac

## Exam Information

A technologist or tech aide will call the patient the day prior to the exam. During this call the staff representative questions patients about metal implants, pacemakers, etc., and will address any questions. Patients should also be aware some athletic/dry-fit clothing, such as Lululemon, have been found to be made with silver or copper fibers, deeming them unsafe for MRI exams. Although patients are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing, they will be required to change into a gown prior to the start of the study for safety.

Upon registration, patients will be escorted to our outpatient waiting area. A technologist or tech aide will explain the procedure prior to the exam, review the medical history form and ask safety questions about metal implants, pacemakers, etc.

# MRI (Continued)

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Because of the strong magnets, certain metal objects are not allowed into the room:

- Items such as jewelry, watches, credit cards and hearing aids can be damaged.
- Hair pins, safety pins, metal zippers and similar objects.
- Removable dental work should be taken out prior to the exam.
- Pens, pocket knives, and belts can be dangerous projectiles and should not be taken into the magnet room.

MRI also should not be used for people with metal objects in their bodies, such as:

- Some pacemakers, defibrillators, and neurostimulators
- Some brain aneurysm clips
- Some artificial heart valves
- Inner ear (cochlear) implants

Patients who are claustrophobic may have difficulty completing the exam. Ear plugs will be provided for the patient due to the loud noises generated from the MRI during normal operation. Exam time may be 30 minutes or greater. Some procedures require IV contrast after the initial exam. A technologist or RN will start your IV line so the contrast can be injected and the second phase of the scan will be completed.

If your physician requests copies of your exam, a CD will be provided prior to your discharge.