

## Having an MRI scan at Spire Wellesley Hospital

The Spire Wellesley MRI scanner is one of the most up to date scanners available today. Unlike many other MRI scanners, it incorporates a noise reduction system which greatly improves patient comfort by reducing the acoustic noise created by the MRI scanner by up to 60% compared with other scanners.

The scanner is a short bore magnet which makes the depth of the scanner short and has one of the widest diameters to provide greater patient comfort especially for those patients who suffer from claustrophobia.

### What is an MRI scan?

MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scanning is a medical investigation that uses an exceptionally strong magnet and radio frequency waves to generate image of your body.

### Why would I need an MRI scan?

An MRI scan is one of the most sophisticated diagnostic tools available to help a referring clinician understand the cause of your particular health issue.

### What can be diagnosed by an MRI scan?

By scanning the relevant area of a patient's body, an MRI scan can help to diagnose the following:

- most ailments of the brain
- sports injuries
- musculoskeletal problems
- most spinal conditions/injuries
- vascular abnormalities
- female pelvic problems
- prostate problems
- some gastrointestinal tract conditions
- certain ear, nose and throat (ENT) conditions
- soft tissue and bone pathology/conditions
- breast pathology

## Who can't have an MRI scan?

Due to the powerful magnetic force involved in producing an MRI scan, certain individuals will not be scanned. You must not have an MRI scan if:

- you have a cardiac (heart) pacemaker
- you have certain clips in your head from brain operations, i.e. aneurysm clips
- you have a cochlear (ear) implant
- you have a metallic foreign body in your eye
- you have a programmable shunt for hydrocephalus (fluid on the brain)
- if you are pregnant
- you have some heart valve replacements

## Before the MRI scan

You will be registered at reception to ensure we have recorded all your details correctly at time of booking. Then one of our skilled Radiographers will meet with you to undertake a final safety check and explain to you the MRI scanning process.

Changing facilities are available if required. You will also be asked to remove any jewellery, watches and hearing aids and must not take electronic pagers, credit cards or mobile phones into the scanning room. These items will be locked safely away for you during the MRI scanning process.

## During the MRI scan

After changing, you will be escorted by the Radiographer to the MRI scan room, where you will be made comfortable on the MRI couch.

A special coil will be placed around the part of your body being examined and you will be positioned within the magnet.

At all times you will be able to communicate with the Radiographer who is undertaking your MRI scan. During the scan, you will hear a series of noises.

## After the MRI scan

Your scan images will be sent to our reporting Radiologist with relevant sub-specialty experience, who then generates a report within one to two working days.

You will be notified when the report will be issued to your referring clinician and you can contact them to discuss the diagnosis or make a follow-up appointment.

## Choice of MRI scan appointments

We are open 5 days a week:

8:30am until 7:30 pm Mondays and Thursdays

8:30am until 4.00pm on Wednesdays and Fridays

8:00am until 4.00pm on Tuesdays

Same-day appointments often available

Closed on bank holidays unless published otherwise.

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