

## Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Please read this before your appointment. Feel free to ask questions.

**Magnetic Resonance Imaging** or MRI uses a strong magnet and radio frequency waves to take pictures. MRI provides detailed pictures of the spine, brain, joints and soft tissues. MRI helps the doctors find problems that cannot always be seen by other tests. A MRI technologist will perform the exam under the direction of a radiologist. A radiologist is a doctor who specializes in reading x-rays

**You are scheduled for an exam at the following HealthEast facility:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> St. John's Hospital   | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodwinds Health Campus    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> St. Joseph's Hospital | <input type="checkbox"/> HealthEast Medical Imaging |

**Appointment Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

Questions about scheduling, call: 651-232-5500

**Please let us know if you:**

- Have a heart pacemaker, aneurysm clips or any electronic or metal implants. The MRI magnet can affect them.
- Have problems being in close spaces.
- Are in renal failure, are diabetic or on dialysis.
- Are or might be pregnant.

### Preparation

Most MRI's do not require you to do anything before the exam. Your doctor's office will let you know if you need to prepare in any way. You should arrive 15 minutes early to fill out a questionnaire about your medical history. You will also be asked to fill out a metal checklist and consent form.

You may need to change your clothes for this exam. You will be asked to remove all metal objects, such as watch, credit cards, jewelry, etc. We suggest that you wear something comfortable and leave your valuables at home.

### The Examination

The MRI technologist will explain the exam to you. They will answer any questions you may have and will make you as comfortable as possible.

You will lie on a padded table. The table moves into a short bore MRI scanner. The scanner is well lit with a fan for your comfort. You must lie very still for the entire exam. Our staff will be talking to you during the test. You will hear knocking sounds while the pictures are being taken. The MRI staff will give you earplugs or music to help muffle the sounds. If you feel uncomfortable at any point during the test, let us know so we can help. Sometimes, a contrast material may be used to help highlight different parts of the area being scanned. This is usually put into a vein in your arm. The radiologist will decide at the time of your exam if this is needed.

### **When the Exam Is Completed**

The radiologist will study and interpret your films and will report the findings to your doctor. Your doctor will explain the results to you.

You may return to your normal activities unless instructed otherwise by your physician. Feel free to ask questions if something is not clear to you.

**At HealthEast, we are dedicated to providing the best possible care. Thank you for taking time to read these instructions. We hope to make your experience as pleasant as possible.**

### **Insurance Information**

HMO's and insurance plans generally pay for MRI exams, but you should confirm your coverage.

Please bring your insurance cards and policy information. If this is a worker's compensation or auto insurance claim, bring all your information with you. If possible, bring the claim number, telephone number & the name of the person processing the claim.

### **Billing Information**

You will receive two bills for this exam.

1. The technical fee is for doing the procedure. It will be from the HealthEast facility. If you have questions regarding this bill, call 651-232-1100.
2. The professional fee is for the radiologist's time. It will be from the radiologist's group. There will be a phone number on the bill that you may call if you have any questions regarding the charge.

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Materials provided by HealthEast Patient Education Service. For 24 hour access and referral:  
HealthEast Care Connection: 651/326-CARE (2273) · 1-866-326-CARE (toll free)  
· [www.healtheast.org](http://www.healtheast.org)