

What you need to know about MRI Scanning...

What is MRI Scanning?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a way of enabling your physician to see inside your body without the use of surgery or radiation. MRI uses a strong magnetic field and radio waves. There are no known biological hazards associated with MRIs.

Prior to your scan...

Because there are some things that may interfere with an MRI scan and may be dangerous to your health, please pay particular attention to the following list of specific items and check any that apply to you.

- Cardiac pacemaker
- Ear implants
- Heart valve or stent placement surgery
- Dental braces
- Brain aneurysm clips
- Pregnancy
- Neuro-stimulators
- Claustrophobia
- Head surgery
- Current cold or cough
- Metallic fragments within the eye
- Broken bones treated with metal rods, plates, or pins
- Surgery within the past 6 weeks
- Inability to lie still or flat on your back for approximately 30-45 minutes

If you checked any of the previous items, please call the Medical Imaging Department, at (507) 646-1143, to notify a member of the staff.

May I take someone with me?

Certainly. Your friend or family member is welcome to stay in the waiting room. If you will be taking a medication to help you through the exam, a driver will be required to take you home.

How should I prepare for my exam?

You should continue to take prescription medicines on schedule — unless your physician has instructed you differently. Do not wear eye makeup, if you are having an MRI scan of your head. It is always a good idea to leave your valuables at home — including any body piercings.

Please feel free to take a favorite CD with you for listening during the exam.

What about my clothing?

You will be asked to change into hospital attire when you arrive for your exam.

Before the procedure...

You will be asked to complete and sign the MRI Safety Screening Form and Health History Form. Please use the restroom prior to the time of your appointment for the exam since, once it has begun, any interruption may result in having to re-start the exam.

What will happen during the procedure?

On the scanner table, a technologist will position you as comfortably as possible. Depending on the body part to be examined, your body will enter the scanner either head-first or feet-first. (The part of the body to be examined must be positioned in the center of the scanner.) You will be given hearing protection to muffle the loud tapping noises that the scanner makes. Or, you may listen to your favorite music. You will also be given an alert bulb so you may summon the technologist at any time during the exam.

The technologist will perform your exam from the adjoining control room. You will be able to communicate with the technologist by means of the alert bulb and the intercom system. To obtain the best imaging for the physicians, it is important that, once you are positioned, you remain as still as possible.

It may be necessary to give you an injection of contrast material during the exam. This injection will be primarily in your arm and will consist of a contrast material that will highlight certain structures in your body. The radiologist will determine whether or not the injection is needed for your exam.

If you have any questions or concerns about the exam, please feel free to ask the technologist at any time.

When will I learn the results?

The radiologist will read the results of your MRI scans and send a report to your physician. Normally, within 3 working days, your physician will inform you of the results of your exam.

Whom should I call if I have any other questions?

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Northfield Hospital's Medical Imaging Department at (507) 646-1143.