

Patient information

Information about your MRI Pelvis Scan

If you have any problems with your appointment time or have any questions you would like to ask, please do not hesitate to contact the MRI receptionist on 01284 712891.

Please arrive **15 minutes early** for your appointment to enable us to do all the necessary checks prior to your scan.

What is MRI?

MRI stands for Magnetic Resonance Imaging. The combination of a powerful magnet and a sophisticated computer allows the radiographer to take images of any body part without the use of X-rays. Many pictures are taken allowing the doctors to look at nerves, soft tissues, fat, internal organs, as well as bone, in fine detail.

How safe is MRI?

With your appointment letter you will have a safety questionnaire. **It is very important that you fill this in before your appointment.** If you have any active implants such as a **pacemaker or other cardiac devices, cochlear implant, aneurysm clips, neuro stimulator or programmable shunts**, please contact us as prior to your appointment. We will need to investigate further as some implants/devices are unsafe to scan. Any glucose monitoring devices, pain patches or hormone patches must be removed before scanning. The MRI scanner can affect their function and can also cause local skin burns.

We also ask you to contact us if you have **ever** had any accidents where metal may have gone into your eyes. It is important you let us know even if this was many years ago.

Preparing for your MRI examination

1. Please arrive early

We ask you to arrive 15 minutes prior to your appointment time. This allows us to check through your safety questionnaire and talk you through the examination.

2. Please do not eat for 2 hours before your scan

This is important as it helps to reduce bowel movement, known as peristalsis, in the pelvic area and makes the images clearer. It is also important in case your examination requires an injection as part of the procedure.

Please note: If you are diabetic, please have a light snack as required.

3. Please empty your bowel prior to your MRI scan

Where possible please empty your bowel on the morning of your appointment. This will help improve the quality of the scans.

4. Please attend with a full bladder

Do not empty your bladder for 30 minutes prior to your scan.

What do I need to wear?

Before the scan we will ask you to get changed into a gown and will provide you with a locker for safekeeping. Changing into a gown is important to ensure we eliminate any metalwork from your clothing.

You will need to remove any piercings, metallic hairgrips, hearing aids, watches etc. Other items such as coins, keys, credit cards and mobile phones need to be put in the locker.

We also ask you not to wear mascara as this contains metallic elements and can heat up causing irritation. You will also need to remove any skin patches such as pain patches as these can heat up and cause burns. It is also recommended not to use topical lotions such as heat rubs prior to your MRI due to the heating effect.

What will happen during your MRI examination?

Once we have checked through your safety questionnaire and you are changed you will be taken into the scanning room. The scanner is open at both ends and far more open and spacious than older versions. You will lie on the scanning table usually feet first and be made comfortable. The body part to be scanned will be in the middle of the scanner.

It is very important that you keep still during the scan. The scanner is very noisy, this is normal. You will be given earplugs and headphones for you to listen to music. There is an intercom so that you can speak with the radiographer in-between scans, and you will be offered a patient buzzer so that you can contact the radiographer at all times.

Having an injection of Buscopan before your MRI Scan

If the area we are scanning is close to the bowel it **may** be necessary to give Buscopan. As your bowel is constantly moving in a motion known as peristalsis, this can make the MRI pictures blurry. Buscopan is an antispasmodic medicine which will help to relax the muscle of the bowel helping improve the quality of your pictures. If we need to give you Buscopan you will be asked to fill in a questionnaire to check it is safe for you to have it.

This can be injected directly into a muscle in your arm. If you take blood thinners/anticoagulants, then it will not be possible to give this into the muscle and instead will be given into a vein.

After the drug is given, you might experience slight blurred vision. This should wear off during the scan. You should check that your vision has recovered if you intend driving home after your scan.

Please note: Very rarely patients can develop painful red eyes with loss of vision within 24hrs of receiving Buscopan. If this happens you must seek medical advice as you may have an undiagnosed condition called glaucoma.

Having an injection of contrast media (dye)

Sometimes it is necessary to give an injection of a “dye” to look at blood vessels and other structure/organs. If needed, this is given into a vein via a cannula, and you will be asked to fill in a questionnaire to ensure it is safe for you to have it.

The dye is harmlessly removed from your blood by your kidneys and passed out in your urine. If you have any kidney function problems, it is important that you contact the MRI department prior to your appointment as it may be necessary for you to have a blood test.

You **are** required to stay in the department for up to 30 minutes after having an injection.

How long will it take?

Scans vary in length with some being as quick as 20 minutes whilst other more complicated scans may last up to 45 minutes.

How do I get my results?

The scan images will be examined after your visit and a report on the findings sent to your referring doctor. If you do not have a follow-up appointment to see your referring doctor one will be sent to you.

What if I am pregnant or breast-feeding?

If you are pregnant, we will suggest that your scan is carried out once you have delivered. If the doctors feel it is medically necessary for you to proceed with scan whilst you are pregnant this is usually done after the first trimester. If you wish to discuss your scan, please contact the MRI department.

If you are breast-feeding, please let us know. This is only important if your examination requires you to have an injection as you may need to make alternative arrangements with respect to feeding for 24 hours after the scan. If you require advice, please contact the MRI department.

MRI and pregnancy

Because of the potential risks to an unborn child, we need to know if there is any possibility of a patient or accompanying parent being pregnant.

All patients between the ages of 12 years and 54 years of age will be asked if there is the possibility of pregnancy.

Discussion will be carried out in private and in confidence.

It is not advisable to bring children when attending an MRI appointment as there are no child facilities available. Staff are not legally able to look after them.

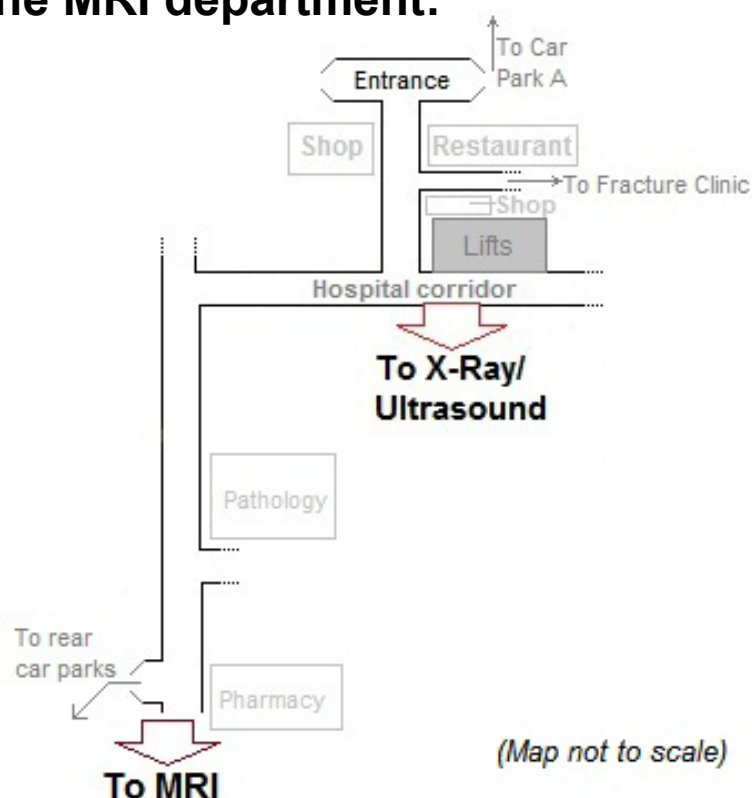
Please note: The hospital is not responsible for any lost or stolen valuables. We provide lockers for safekeeping; however, these have limited space. We do not recommend that you bring valuables to your appointment. Wedding rings **do not** need to be removed.

Car parking for patients/visitors is available in Car Park A at the front of the hospital (the first car park to the right as you enter the site), and Car Park D at the rear of the site near the MRI and Macmillan Units.

West Suffolk Hospital operates a number plate recognition system for all vehicles entering the site. When ready to leave, please visit one of the pay stations on site. Enter your vehicle registration number and pay the required fee. The exit barriers will recognise the vehicle registration and that the parking has been paid for, and will open automatically. Please check the hospital website (www.wsh.nhs.uk) for further information on car parking, fees, exemptions, and penalties.

Please allow plenty of time to park before your appointment, as the car parks are continuously busy throughout the day.

Directions to the MRI department:



Data protection information

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust will manage your information in line with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679. The information you provide will be retained for the purposes of your healthcare. The information will be retained in line with the **NHS Records Management Code of Practice for Health & Social Care**.

You have rights in relation to the way we process your information. If you no longer want us to use your information for the purposes specified above; if you want to request to have your information erased or rectified, please contact the information governance team on 01284 712781.

We will review all requests in relation to your rights under GDPR, along with our responsibilities for record keeping.

Images may be used for research purposes as well as teaching. Patients must inform a member of staff know if they do not consent to this.

As part of a shared service agreement with other NHS organisations, your radiology images and records may be shared with these other organisations as part of determining and providing your care. If you would like to know more about the extent of this sharing, or you wish us not to share at all with another organisation, or have any other concerns about it, please contact a member of staff.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities, please visit the website for AccessAble (formerly DisabledGo)

<https://www.accessable.co.uk>



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