



**Queensland  
Government**

**PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET ONLY**

**NO DOCUMENTED CONSENT REQUIRED**

*Unless patient is renal impaired*

# Consent Information – Parent/ Patient Copy

## MRI- Magnetic Resonance Imaging

### Child / Young Person

#### 1. What is MRI?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is an advanced imaging method that uses a strong magnetic field, radio waves and a computer to produce pictures of the body. MRI does not use x-rays.

MRI pictures are very detailed. They can show both bones and soft tissues in the body.

#### MRI Safety

- *No one* is permitted into the scanning room until they have answered a series of safety questions and removed all metal objects from their body. (eg jewellery, eye glasses and mobile phones).
- Because of the strong magnetic field there will be some patients who *cannot* undergo MRI. These are patients who have metallic implants. These include but are not limited to: heart pacemakers, aneurysm clips in the brain and foreign bodies such as metal shavings in the eyes.
- It is vital that you answer the safety questions as accurately as possible. You should discuss any internal implants (of any kind) that you/your child may have with MRI staff to clarify any possible risks.



#### 2. Will there be any discomfort, is any anaesthetic needed?

It is very important that you/your child lie very still for the procedure. Supporting straps, foam pads and light weights may be used to help with this. If unable to lie still, a general anaesthetic may be needed. If booked for an anaesthetic, please read **About Your Child's Anaesthetic - Information Sheet** (*if you do not have this information sheet please ask for one*).

#### 3. Preparation for the procedure

The medical imaging department will give instructions on how to prepare for the procedure.

- Please tell the staff if you/your child is or suspect may be pregnant.

#### **For Parent/Guardian/Adult**

To prepare your child for the procedure and to ease their fears, tell them what they can expect to happen during the procedure. The information sheets will assist you with this

- We welcome your help and support during the procedure

- At the discretion of the medical imaging staff:
  - A parent/guardian/adult (unless pregnant) may be invited into the procedure room to support their child.
  - If your child is having a general anaesthetic you *may* be able to see them off to sleep. Once asleep you will be asked to leave the procedure room and wait in the waiting area.
- Other children are not allowed into the procedure room. These children must be supervised at all times by another parent/guardian/adult.

#### 4. During the procedure

You/your child will not feel anything during the scan. The radio waves used to take the pictures are *very* noisy; you/your child may hear thumping, and knocking sounds. Patients will be provided with headphones or earplugs to protect their ears from the noise.

MRI staff will not be in the room during the scan but they will be able to see you/your child and talk to them between the scans via an intercom. A call button will be given to use if there is an emergency.

The MRI scan will involve a series of scans over a period of between 15 and 90 minutes. Each scan can take between 1 and 5 minutes. It is extremely important that you/your child keeps completely still during each scan. Any movement can blur the pictures.

Depending on the area being scanned MRI contrast may be given.

A fine needle (IV cannula) will be put into a vein in the arm, making it possible to inject the MRI Contrast. Before the needle is inserted, a local anaesthetic cream may be applied, to numb the skin.

For more information on MRI contrast and the risks involved in its use, please read the **MRI Contrast Information Sheet – Child /Young Person** (*if you do not have this information sheet please ask for one*).

#### 5. After the procedure

The IV cannula will be removed (if inserted).

#### 6. What are the risks of this specific procedure?

The risks and complications with this procedure can include but are not limited to the following.

#### **Common risks and complications include:**

- Minor pain, bruising and/or infection from the IV cannula. This may require treatment with antibiotics.

#### **Less common risks and complications include:**

- The procedure may not be possible due to medical and/or technical reasons.

#### **Rare risks and complications include:**

- Death as a result of this procedure is very rare.

# Consent Information – Parent/ Patient Copy

## MRI Contrast

### Child / Young Person

#### 1. What is MRI Contrast?

The medical imaging procedure the doctor has asked you/your child to have may use MRI Contrast. MRI Contrast is a colourless liquid that is injected into the blood stream. MRI Contrast is not a dye. It does not stain the inside of the body. It is used during MRI medical imaging procedures to allow organs to be seen more clearly. The doctor needs to use MRI Contrast to be able to get all the information needed to assist with the diagnosis.

**This information sheet must be read together with the information sheet on the procedure you/your child is booked for (if you do not have this information sheet please ask for one).**

#### 2. During the procedure

When the MRI Contrast is injected you/your child should not feel any different.

#### 3. After the procedure

MRI Contrast will not affect the patient’s ability to carry out normal activities; they should be able to continue with their day as normal.

#### 4. Precautions

MRI Contrast is not suitable for some people. You will be asked a series of questions before given the MRI Contrast.

The answers allow staff to identify any risk factors that you/your child may have.

- Please tell the staff if you/your child is or suspect may be pregnant or is breast feeding.

##### Kidney function

- MRI Contrast is removed from the blood by the kidneys through the urine. It is easily removed from the body if you/your child has normal kidney function.
- Children whose kidneys are poorly functioning (known as ‘Renal Failure’) cannot remove MRI Contrast from their body. This may lead to a very rare disorder called Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis (NSF).

NSF is a condition that results in scarring or thickening of the skin and tissues throughout the body. This scarring can lead to a tightening of muscle, tendons, ligaments, or skin that prevents normal movement and function. This condition is severely disabling and may result in death.

- You/your child may be asked to have a simple blood test to find out the level of their kidney function.

#### 5. What are the risks of MRI Contrast?

The risks and complications with MRI Contrast can include but are not limited to the following.

##### **Common risks and complications include:**

- No known common risks.

##### **Less common risks and complications include:**

- Injected Contrast may leak outside of the vein, under the skin and into the fat tissue, this may require treatment. In very rare cases, further surgery could be required if the skin breaks down.
- The injection may not be possible due to medical and/or technical reasons.

##### **Rare risks and complications include:**

- Allergic reactions occur within the first hour with most happening in the first 5 minutes. Late reactions have been known to occur up to a week after the injection. The reactions vary from:  
*Mild* –hives, sweating, sneezing, coughing, nausea.  
*Moderate* – wide spread hives, headaches, facial swelling, vomiting, shortness of breath.  
*Severe* – Severe reactions are rare but include: life-threatening heart palpitations, very low blood pressure, throat swelling, fits and/or cardiac arrest.
- Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis (NSF) *for severe renal impaired patients only.*
- Death as a result of MRI contrast is *very rare.*

#### 6. What are the safety issues when you/your child leave hospital?

Go to the nearest Emergency Department or GP if you/your child become unwell.

##### **Notes to talk to the doctor/ health practitioner about:**

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