

INFORMATION ON MRI SCANS

Please see the second page for locations and what to do once you have booked your scan.

What is an MRI scan and why have I been referred for one?

A magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan is an important tool in helping to diagnose injuries. MRI uses magnets which are non-radiating (i.e. safe) to construct an image of the area of the body being scanned. It takes approximately 30 minutes to conduct each scan (area of body imaged).

MRI scans should not be used in isolation and must be combined with patient history and examination findings. At an appointment your doctor will have determined that an MRI is appropriate from taking a history and examining you.

Are there any risks?

There is a risk that if you have a mobile piece of metal inside your body the scanner can cause it to move. Scan locations will provide a checklist to make sure you have no risk of mobile metal inside the body. In addition, some people get claustrophobia and cannot tolerate lying inside an MRI scanner for 30 minutes (usual duration).

How do I organise an MRI scan?

If you have been referred for an MRI scan then you must book and arrange the scan with a (separate) radiology practice. There are many to choose between in Sydney and you can attend whichever radiology practice you choose as your referral is eligible for all MRI machines. You can make your choice based on:

- Convenience of the MRI scanner to your home or work
- Availability of appointments (some places are more heavily booked than others)
- Cost of the scan and whether the scan is eligible for a Medicare rebate (see below)

Occasionally a certain machine or radiologist will be particularly specialised to deal with your condition, but for most cases the quality of MRI scans performed in Australia is good on most machines.

Will I get a Medicare rebate or be able to claim on private health insurance for an MRI?

In Australia, some MRI units/scans are Medicare-eligible and others are not. Dr. Samra can order Medicare-eligible MRI scans for certain conditions. If your scan is performed on a Medicare-eligible unit, this referral would allow you to claim a Medicare rebate. You will not be able to claim on any private health insurance for MRI scans.

How much will it cost?

Medicare-eligible unit: You can claim a Medicare rebate for certain scans. **Please ask the radiology practice for the full cost of a scan when you are booking**, bearing in mind that you are free to shop around.

Non-Medicare-eligible unit: usually less than Medicare-eligible machines, but with no Medicare rebate available. Overall cost around \$300.

Workers' Compensation: insurance companies will cover the full cost but must pre-approve the scan in writing.

List of some of the nearby private Sydney MRI scanners

| Radiology practice | Address | Phone |
|---|---|-------------|
| <i>Medicare-eligible units</i> | | |
| Castlereagh Imaging Edgecliff | Suite 301, Eastpoint 235 New South Head Rd Edgecliff NSW 2027 | 9326 2799 |
| St Vincent's Clinic Medical Imaging | Suite 501, St Vincent's Clinic 438 Victoria St Darlinghurst NSW 2010 | 8382 7530 |
| St George MRI | 1 Belgrave St Kogarah NSW 2217 | 9587 6122 |
| Mater Imaging | 25 Rocklands Road Crows Nest NSW | 9955 4466 |
| Specialist Magnetic Resonance Imaging | Suite G4 RPAH Medical Centre 100 Carillion Avenue Newtown NSW 2042 | 9557 1464 |
| Castlereagh St Leonards | 60 Pacific Highway St Leonards NSW 2065 | 9439 6200 |
| <i>Other units (may not be Medicare-eligible)</i> | | |
| Stadium Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine | Ground floor, Sheridan Building, Moore Park Rd Moore Park NSW 2021 | 8323 6599 |
| Southern Radiology - Randwick | Neurosciences Building, POW Hospital Barker St Randwick NSW 2031 | 9650 4962 |
| City Xray | Domain House, Ground Floor 139 Macquarie St Sydney NSW 2000 | 9251 5233 |
| Sydney X-ray Bondi Junction | 3 Waverley St Bondi Junction NSW 2022 | 9386 1817 |
| Southern Radiology - Camperdown | The Brain Institute 94 Mallett St Camperdown NSW 2050 | 9114 4166 |
| North Coast Radiology Group | 13 Spring St Chatswood NSW 2067 | 8423 2700 |
| Upright MRI Australia* | 3 Colo Lane Blacktown NSW 2148 | 1300 674722 |

*The only machine in greater Sydney using standing rather than lying images

Some other scan locations are listed at: <http://www.medscans.com.au/mri/mri-sydney.php>

I've booked a scan. What do I do next?

- 1) You need to book in for a review appointment at the Clinic for Dr. Samra to review the films and interpret the report. You need an appointment for this, as *results won't be provided over the phone or via email.*
- 2) Please ask for the radiology practice to include a report with the films and/or send the report to Dr. Samra: **fax (02) 8580 4899.**
- 3) Bring the films to your review appointment.