



Your MRI Cardiac Scan

Scanning Department Radiology

Great Western Hospital

If you need to cancel or you have queries or concerns please contact the department on

01793 60 50 47

Opening Hours

**Monday - Friday
9.00am - 4.30pm**



Your MRI Cardiac Scan

What is an MRI Scan?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a method of obtaining pictures of the tissues and organs within the body. The scanner uses a combination of a powerful magnet, radio-frequency waves and a sophisticated computer. There is no ionizing radiation involved. You can now watch a video of what happens by visiting us at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wa9jRLq8>

Do I have to have this scan?

The doctor has requested this scan for you. It is the easiest way to gain the information needed to diagnose your problem.

Are there any risks involved?

The Radiographer will run through a simple safety check with you to make sure you can be scanned.

An MRI scan is not suitable for everyone.

Before booking, please read the safety information below and ring us if you have a query.



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It is important that you ring us if any of the following applies to you:

- **Pregnancy**
- **Heart Pacemaker**
- **Aneurysm clips in your head**
- **Any metal implants (other than dental work)**
- **Accidents involving metal splinters in your eye, head or body**
- **Surgery within the past 3 months**

You MUST ring us if you are asthmatic as you may not be able to have this test

Weight Limit

There is a weight limit of 200kg (31 stone) for the MRI scanner. Please ring for further advice if you think you may be too heavy.

What do I have to do before I come?

- You **must** avoid all caffeine for 24 hours before the scan such as chocolate, tea and coffee and includes decaf, fizzy drinks, energy drinks and some medications.
- Otherwise eat and drink as normal.
- You should continue with your usual medication (unless it contains caffeine).
- **Please bring a list of current medication with you**



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- **Do NOT smoke for 4 hours prior to your scan time**
- You will be asked to remove all metal objects such as watch, coins and credit cards.
- Please remove **all** jewellery and piercings (**except wedding ring**) and leave them at home.
- Eye make-up can contain metal particles, so should not be worn.
- You will be provided with a gown to change into. Loose fitting trousers with no metal fastenings are advised.

What does a MRI Cardiac Scan involve?

- You will need to keep still whilst the scan is taking place.
- The scan will take up to 60 minutes.
- You will be connected to ECG leads during the scan.
- The scanner makes a drumming noise, but ear protection is provided. You should not experience any discomfort
- We can play music from your own CD or MP3 if you wish.
- This scan usually involves an injection of dye. Some cardiac scans also require an injection of a medicine to dilate the blood vessels to check the heart's blood supply.



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What happens after the Scan?

- The report will be sent directly to your referring doctor.
- You will receive a letter or follow-up appointment to discuss the results.
- Please allow up to one month for this.

This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net

Document Control

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