

# MRI Patient Guide

The CHEM Center for MRI is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing state of the art technology and quality MRI services to area patients since 1989.

We are committed to providing excellence of images, interpretation and service, and have earned a reputation with our referring physicians and our patients for our clinical accuracy and our patient friendly service.

The CHEM Center offers impressive image quality and fast scan imaging utilizing the latest MRI technology from GE Medical Systems, and Hitachi Medical Systems. The Ultra Short Bore Horizon 1.5 Tesla magnet, and Open Hitachi Airis II magnet were designed with patient comfort in mind.

### Patients rights

The Center is committed to maintaining the rights of patients and will assure patient confidentiality, dignity, privacy and the right for you to understand and consent to the test.

## What if I am claustrophobic?

The CHEM Center now has an open magnet for patients who are claustrophobic. The Hitachi open magnet was designed to easily accommodate anxious and claustrophobic patients.

#### What if I need to cancel?

If you need to cancel your exam, PLEASE call us at least one day in advance at (781) 279-2213.

# Are there any possible risks associated with MRI?

Extensive testing was done on MRI before it was approved for medical use. There are no known adverse effects from the MRI imaging process itself. Currently, MRI scans are not routinely recommended for pregnant women in the first trimester.

#### **Directions:**

Route 128: Take Exit 38A Stoneham, which is Main Street, Route 28, Stoneham. At the 5th set of lights take a right onto Montvale Avenue. The CHEM Center is a two story brick building 1/4 mile on the left.

Traveling Route 93N: Take Exit 36. At the lights at the end of the ramp, take a right onto Montvale Avenue. The CHEM Center is a two story brick building 1/2 mile on the right, past the Montvale Plaza.

Traveling on Route 93S: Take Exit 36. At the lights at the end of the ramp, take a left onto Montvale Avenue. The CHEM Center is a two story brick building 1/2 mile on the right, past the Montvale Plaza.

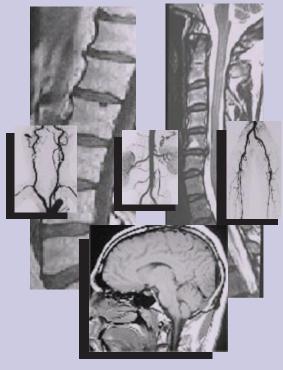


If you have any questions, regarding directions, please contact the office at 781-279-2213. The hours are Monday through Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



48 Montvale Avenue • Stoneham, MA 02180 781-279-2213 www.chemcentermri.com





CHEM CENTER
MRI

781-279-2213







High field magnet



Open magnet

#### Important information about Magnetic Resonance Imaging.

MRI is a unique procedure that uses a magnetic field and radio waves to look inside the human body. It is an important addition to existing diagnostic tools because it is a painless procedure, which offers physicians unprecedented computerized images of the human body without using harmful x-rays. This process is called a MRI exam (also scan or study).

The Radiologist is a physician who specializes in reading images produced by various technologies. The Radiologist will report his/her conclusion to your physician. The CHEM Center is staffed by Board Certified Radiologists who are on site fulltime.

The Technologist is a certified/licensed professional who is trained to operate the MRI unit. The CHEM Center is committed to employing technologists who provide exceptional care in a friendly, courteous manner.

#### What will my exam be like?

During your MRI exam, you will lie on a padded table. It is important that you lie very still while the images are being taken. A MRI technologist will be right outside the exam room and will be able to see and hear you the entire time. If you are uncomfortable, just say so and the technologist will be right in to assist you.

During the exam process the MRI scanner makes a very loud repetitive noise. This process is a result of the changing of the magnetic field to collect the data. Earplugs are provided for you to minimize the sound.

### What will happen during the screening and registration process?

Screening is the process that takes place before your MRI exam and includes taking a medical history and individual instruction regarding the exam. You will be registered the day of your exam. This process takes about 15-30 minutes. You will be asked to provide your medical history in detail and sign consent forms. The technologist performing your exam will thoroughly explain the procedure and answer all your questions.

# What should I bring to the exam?

- Please remember to bring all insurance information and ID cards.
- No special preparations are necessary for a MRI scan (except for the MRCP exam). Eat, drink and take medications as you normally do, unless otherwise specified.
- Wear comfortable clothing. You may be asked to change into a hospital gown, but frequently a sweatsuit or similar garment without any metal (zippers, metal buttons or snaps) is sufficient.
- Please leave all your valuables at home since you will not be able to wear most jewelry and watches in the scan room. These items can be affected by the magnet. Lockers are available for safe keeping, but the CHEM Center cannot take responsibility for lost or stolen items.
- You will be given specific instructions, depending on the area to be examined. For example, for a head scan you may be asked to remove bridgework and non-permanent dentures.

# Can I bring a friend or family member?

A friend or family member is welcome, but they must be screened for conditions that would prevent them from joining you in the scan room. (See "Who may not have a MRI exam?" in this brochure).

# When will I know the results of my Scan?

The images of your scan will be read by our Board Certified Radiologist. The report of your exam is available to your physician generally within 24 hours. Your doctor will discuss your test findings with you.

What about payment for my MRI scan?
The CHEM Center accepts all major insurances. As a courtesy, the CHEM Center staff will verify your insurance coverage and inform you of any payment responsibility. If you have any questions, please call our billing department at (781) 279-0277. Also, please note that you will be billed separately by the Radiologist for the interpretation of your scan.

### Who may not have a MRI exam?

Most patients with joint replacements or other orthopedic hardware do not present a problem and still can be scanned, but because MRI uses powerful magnetic fields, some patients may be excluded from having a MRI.

If any of the following conditions exist, please notify the CHEM Center for MRI before your exam.

- Cardiac Pacemaker
- Cerebral Aneurysm Clips
- Cochlear Implants
- Implanted Insulin or Chemotherapy Pumps
- Implanted Neuro-Stimulator Devices
- Pregnancy
- Heart Valve Replacements
- Other Prosthetic Devices
- Metal Fragments in Eye