

INFORMATION ON MRI SCANS



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 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. There is plenty of potential for findings reported at the MRI to not actually be causing your symptoms, but obviously they can also be very useful. At an appointment your doctor will have determined that an MRI is appropriate from taking a history and examining you and then will interpret the report along with the clinical findings to give the report context.

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.

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
- Whether the scan is eligible for a full or partial 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 are fully Medicare-eligible (with specialist referral) and others are not or have partial eligibility for GP referrals. If your scan is performed on a Medicare-eligible unit, with a specialist referral you may be able to claim a Medicare rebate. You will not be able to claim on any private health insurance for MRI scans. The sports physicians at this clinic (Drs Bryant, Markovic, Orchard & Rae) can all order Medicare-eligible MRI scans. The non/partial-eligible machines will accept orders from GPs, physiotherapists etc. and some of these will attract a rebate.

How much will it cost?

- *Medicare-eligible unit:* full price may be up to \$600, and then you can claim a Medicare rebate of up to \$350 if ordered by a specialist. Please ask the radiology practice for the cost of a scan when you are booking and what the rebate will be.
- *Non-Medicare-eligible unit:* usually less than \$350, but with no Medicare rebate available. Partial-medicare eligible have some but lower rebates for GP referrals.
- *Workers' Compensation:* insurance companies will cover the full cost but must pre-approve the scan in writing.

More information (although it may just create more confusion!) is at:

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/7F2A61636E4F735FCA257C15001F630E/\\$File/Fact%20Sheet%20Access%20MRI%202013.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/7F2A61636E4F735FCA257C15001F630E/$File/Fact%20Sheet%20Access%20MRI%202013.pdf)

Where are some of the nearby Sydney radiology practices with MRI scans?

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
Specialist Magnetic Resonance Imaging	Suite G4 RPAH Medical Centre 100 Carillion Avenue Newtown NSW 2042	9557 1464
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
Castlereagh St Leonards	60 Pacific Highway St Leonards NSW 2065	9439 6200
<i>Other units (may not be Medicare-eligible)</i>		
PRP Moore Park	Ground floor, Sheridan Building, Moore Park Rd Moore Park NSW 2021	8075 3400
Southern Radiology - Randwick	Neurosciences Building, Prince of Wales Hospital Campus 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

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. Once you have secured a scan appointment, you need to book in for a review appointment at the clinic here for your doctor to review the films and interpret the report. You do need an appointment for this, as our clinic will not provide results over the phone.
2. Please ask for the radiology practice to include a report with the films and/or send the report to the Sports Clinic: p: 9351 8118, f: 9351 8123, e: info@thesportsclinic.com.au
3. Bring the films to your review appointment.
4. When you attend your review appointment, if you don't have the report with you, ask the reception to check that it has arrived via fax or email and, if not, we can phone the MRI clinic to get a copy.