

MR imaging guidelines for General Practitioners

MRI is a complex, time consuming and potentially dangerous imaging modality.

Therefore:

- Take special care when completing the MRI referral form.
- Doctors in training cannot request MRI studies.
- Joints: Accepted if injury related. Not routinely indicated in patients over 55, non specific pain or OA. X-rays should be considered as first line investigation.

-**Spine:** Accepted for severe pain >6 weeks with sciatica type symptoms, focal neurology or a background of malignancy. Not routinely indicated for chronic back pain without complicating factors.

-**MR Angiogram Brain:** Accepted for patients with at least 1st degree relative with berry aneurysm or bleed.

-**MRI brain:** Not indicated for routine work up of headache, dizziness, TIA, CVA etc. CT brain appropriate as first line investigation.

VHI patients:

VHI have circulated new criteria regarding MRI scans which the request must fulfil. For example for the spine VHI does not accept indications such as: tingling, pins & needles, radiculopathy with neurological signs. The claim form must specify the neurological signs e.g., absent reflexes, reduced sensation.

Feel free to contact MRI at 071- 9136868 if you have a query.

Mission Statement

*Sligo University Hospital is committed to the delivery of a high quality, patient centred service in a safe, equitable and efficient manner.
We recognise and value the contribution of each staff member and endeavour to support them in their ongoing development.*