



Policy and Procedure

Subject: Patient MRI Safety Screening

Date Approved: October 6, 2016

Date Reviewed: March 8, 2017

Policy:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure all patients are screened for contraindications to MRI before entering Zone 3 or Zone 4 (refer to Zone mapping policy).

Procedure:

- The patient will complete a PRE-MRI Patient Screening form which asks a variety history and safety questions.
- All inpatients and emergency department patients must have a completed screening form completed and reviewed by the MRI personnel prior to transport to MRI.
- To ensure patient safety, all patients will be required to change into a gown (exceptions may be made under certain circumstances).
- **Unresponsive Patients:** The MRI Technologist or MRI Tech Assistant will inquire about the patient's level of consciousness and/or ability to respond to verbal commands/questions. If there is insufficient clinical history on record, it is the responsibility of the ordering physician to obtain this clinical history from family members. For patients who are unable to provide a clinical history, (e.g. confused, sedated or unconscious) an AP and LAT skull x-ray and/or CT scan, AP Chest, AP abdomen, and AP pelvis x-ray and/or CT scan will be performed prior to being scanned. An order must be obtained from the referring physician. The radiologist will review the images to determine if the patient can enter the magnetic field area. This is to be done even when the clinical history indicates the absence of a pacemaker. Technologist will document radiologist approval in RIS and or EPIC.



- **Body Piercing/Jewelry:** All patients will be encouraged to remove all jewelry including body piercings.
 - If a patient cannot or will not remove a body piercing/jewelry they will not be sedated.
 - If the piercing is in the area to be scanned, they will not be scanned unless the piercing or Jewelry is removed. Piercing must be removed by the patient, family member or professionally; OAI staff are not permitted to remove piercings.
 - If the piercing is in area of the body that is not being scanned (field of view, artifact, etc.) doing the exam will be considered. The body piercings will either be checked with a wand (NL) or small held magnet for Ferrous (conductive) material. If the piercing is made of conductive material, they will not be scanned.
 - If it is determined the patient can be scanned, they will be instructed to immediately inform the technologist if heating or other unusual sensation occurs in association with the body piercing jewelry.
 - **If questions arise, the tech must speak with a radiologist.**