



Radiology Services & Diagnostic Imaging
 Routine Scheduling: 707-826-8266
 Radiology Fax: 707-826-8254
 MRI: 707-826-8282 • MRI Fax: 707-825-4982

Ordering Guidelines for MRI Examinations

MRI Contrast vs. No Contrast Reference Sheet – Head/Neck Updated 1/2021

Body Part	Reason for Exam	Procedure to Pre-Cert	CPT Code
Brain	-Alzheimer's/Confusion/Dementia -F/U Cyst (<i>already classified</i>) -Headache/Migraine -Memory Loss -Mental Status Changes -Multiple Sclerosis-diagnosis -Seizures- recurrent -Stroke, CVA, TIA -Trauma -Vertigo -Visual Disturbances	MRI Brain without Contrast	70551
Brain	-Abscess -Cranial Nerve Lesions -F/U Lesion/Mass (not cystic) -IACs: acoustic neuroma, hearing loss, tinnitus (<i>will include add'l thin cuts through IACs</i>) -Meningitis -Metastatic Disease -Multiple Sclerosis (<i>f/u if pt on tx</i>) -Neurofibromatosis -Pituitary: (<i>diagnosis or follow-up-will include add'l thin cuts through pituitary</i>) -Seizures- new onset	MRI Brain without and with Contrast	70553
Brain	-Fiducials -Gamma Knife Planning	MRI Brain with Contrast	70552
Circle of Willis (COW)	-Aneurysm -Stroke/CVA/TIA	MRA Head without Contrast	70544
Carotids	-Stroke/CVA/TIA	MRA Neck without Contrast	70547
Carotids	-Aneurysm -Stenosis > 60% on Doppler Ultrasound	MRA Neck without and with Contrast	70549
Intracranial Venous Sinus	-Venous Thrombosis	MRV Head without and with Contrast	70546
Orbits	-Optic Neuritis -Exophthalmos, Proptosis -Pseudotumor/Mass/Cancer/Mets -Vascular Lesions	MRI Orbits/Face/Neck without and with Contrast	70543
Neck-Soft Tissue	-Infection -Tumor/Mass/Cancer/Mets -Vocal Cord Paralysis	MRI Orbits/Face/Neck without and with Contrast	70543



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MRI Contrast vs. No Contrast Reference Sheet – Spine

Body Part	Reason for Exam	Procedure to Pre-Cert	CPT Code
Spine: Cervical	-Degenerative Disease -Disc Herniation -Extremity Pain/Weakness -Neck Pain -Osteomyelitis -Radiculopathy -Trauma	MRI Cervical Spine without Contrast	72141
Spine: Cervical	-Discitis -Mass/Lesion	MRI Cervical Spine without and with Contrast	72156
Spine: Thoracic	-Back Pain -Compression Fracture -Disc Herniation -Osteomyelitis -Radiculopathy -Trauma	MRI Thoracic Spine without Contrast	72146
Spine: Thoracic	-Discitis -Mass/Lesion	MRI Thoracic Spine without and with Contrast	72157
Spine: Lumbar	-Back Pain -Compression Fracture -Disc Herniation -Osteomyelitis -Radiculopathy -Stenosis -Trauma	MRI Lumbar Spine without Contrast	72148
Spine: Lumbar	-Discitis -Mass/Lesion -Post Lumbar Surgery (<i>only if within the last year</i>)	MRI Lumbar Spine without and with Contrast	72158



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MRI Contrast vs. No Contrast Reference Sheet – MSK

Body Part	Reason for Exam	Procedure to Pre-Cert	CPT Code
Extremity, Non Joint: Forearm Hand/Finger Humerus Foot Lower Leg Thigh Toes	-Abscess -Cellulitis -Fracture/Stress Fracture -Muscle/Tendon Tear -Morton’s Neuroma -Osteomyelitis -Ulcer	MRI Non-Joint without Contrast Upper Extremity Lower Extremity	73218 73718
Extremity, Non Joint: Forearm Hand/Finger Humerus Foot/Toes Lower Leg Thigh	(Venous Injection) -Soft Tissue Tumor/Mass	MRI Non-Joint without and with Contrast Upper Extremity Lower Extremity	73220 73720
Extremity, Joint: Elbow Shoulder Wrist Ankle Hip Knee	-Abscess -Arthritis -Cartilage Tear -Cellulitis -Fracture/Stress Fracture -Internal Derangement -Joint Pain -Ligament Tear -Meniscal Tear -Muscle/Tendon Tear -Osteomyelitis -Ulcer	MRI Joint without Contrast Upper Extremity Lower Extremity	73221 73721
Extremity, Joint: Elbow Shoulder Wrist Ankle Hip Knee	(Venous Injection) -Soft Tissue Tumor/Mass	MRI Joint without and with Contrast Upper Extremity Lower Extremity	73223 73723
Joint: Arthrogram	Intra-articular Injection	MRI Joint with Contrast Upper Extremity Lower Extremity	73222 73722
Pelvis - MSK	-Abscess/Ulcer -Muscle/Tendon Tear -Osteomyelitis -Pelvic Pain -Sacrum/ Coccyx -SI Joints	MRI Pelvis without Contrast	72195



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Ordering Guidelines for MRI Examinations

MRI Contrast vs. No Contrast Reference Sheet – Body

Body Part	Reason for Exam	Procedure to Pre-Cert	CPT Code
Abdomen	-Adrenals -MRCP -Pancreas	MRI Abdomen without Contrast <i>(patient must be NPO at least 4 hours prior to scan)</i>	74181
Abdomen	-Kidneys -Liver -Mass	MRI Abdomen without and with Contrast <i>(specify organ for correct protocol to be run)</i>	74183
Abdomen – MRA	-Renal Arteries (<i>stenosis, aneurysm, etc.</i>) -Mesenteric Ischemia	MRA Abdomen without and with Contrast	74185
Abdomen & Pelvis- (Small Bowel) Enterography	-Crohn's disease -IBS -Other chronic abd pain of unknown cause (<i>other routine testing has been negative</i>)	MRI Abdomen without and with Contrast AND MRI Pelvis without and with Contrast	74183 72197
Brachial Plexus	-Brachial Plexus Neuropathy	MRI Chest without Contrast	71550
*Chest – MRA	-Thoracic Aorta -Vascular Anomalies -Subclavian vessels	MRA Chest without and with Contrast	71555
*Chest Mediastinum	-Hilar/mediastinal adenopathy -SC Joint Pain -Sternum	MRI Chest without Contrast	71550
*Chest Mediastinum	-Infection -Mass -Metastatic Disease	MRI Chest without and with Contrast	71552
Pelvis - Female	-Adenomyosis -Endometriomas -Known Fibroids -Menses Problems -Pelvic Pain -Uterine Anomalies -Ovarian Cysts (<i>already classified/ follow-up</i>)	MRI Pelvis without Contrast	72195
Pelvis - Female	-Adnexal Mass -Endometrial CA -Ovarian CA -Ovarian Cysts (<i>new diagnosis</i>) -Pre-embolization work-up -Uterine Artery Embolus	MRI Pelvis without and with Contrast	72197

* MRCH does not have a designated MRI Chest coil. Please call the MRI and/or main Radiology department to discuss other possible imaging options.

**Since MRIs are very specific and specialized exams, we ask that you please be very specific and detailed in your orders/reasons for your patient to have an MRI so that we can make sure we are doing the best exam(s) for your patient's needs.