



## 10 Questions Patients Should Ask Their MRI Provider

### Are the facility and the technologist(s) accredited?

- All MRI Group facilities are accredited by the American College of Radiology (ACR) for the services which they provide. The ACR accreditation achieved by MRI Group meets all requirements to bill under part B of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule.
- All technologists at MRI Group are registered and certified in the modality of MRI by American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, or are completing the stringent requirements to sit for the nationally recognized examination.

### Does the facility follow the ACR's four-zone safety and screening procedures?

- All MRI Group facilities follow the four-zone recommendation put forth by the ACR. Signs are strategically placed to indicate each zone, keypad-entry doors are utilized to separate Zone II and Zone III at several locations, and warning signs and other physical devices are used to restrict access throughout our facilities.
- Patients are safety screened upon arrival at an MRI Group location and again immediately prior to the start of the exam. In addition, outpatients undergo a preliminary safety screening over the phone by qualified staff members prior to their appointment.

### Is there an MR-conditional fire extinguisher?

- All MRI Group facilities are equipped with one or more MR-conditional fire extinguishers available onsite. MR-conditional fire extinguishers can be safely used in any part of the MRI Group facility and enhance the safety of patients and staff in the event of a fire emergency.

### Are the furniture and equipment in Zone IV MR-conditional or MR-safe?

- All of the equipment used in the completion of an MRI exam is either MR-safe or MR-conditional—meaning, that it can safely be used even in the presence of the strong magnetic forces. The exception to this statement is the battery packs used for some pieces of equipment, which are MR-unsafe. However, these are securely fastened to the floor and pose no threat of harm or injury to patients or staff.
- Many facilities offer MR-safe or MR-conditional chairs or other furniture for patients or other individuals to use safely within Zone IV.
- All equipment is clearly marked with labels confirming its MR-safe, MR-conditional, or MR-unsafe qualities. The labels are also intuitively color coded (green = MR-safe, yellow = MR-conditional, red = MR-unsafe) so even those without thorough training can make sense of the terminology.

### Where are outside metal objects stored in the facility?

- Patients are provided lockers to store all of their belongings during the exam. Patients are also changed into hospital attire (gowns and scrub pants) to minimize the chance of outside objects mistakenly finding their way into Zone IV. Staff members are asked to dress in a ferrous-free manner and place personal belongings in lockers.
- MR-unsafe objects are stored within various parts of the facility but are clearly marked as such.

### What happens if a patient develops breathing problems while having a scan?

- The exam will be paused or terminated and the patient will be assessed by MRI Group staff. If the patient warrants further assessment or emergency medical treatment, the patient is immediately removed from Zone IV. Each location has access to physicians for the majority of operating hours and staff may call upon them to evaluate patients. There are oxygen and medication kits available at each facility if treatment is deemed necessary by a physician. If necessary, staff will activate a Code Blue or summon EMS via 911.

### What steps do you take to prevent someone from bringing unsafe objects into the magnet room?

- Patients and staff are asked to place personal belongings in lockers and dress in such a way that ferrous objects are not introduced into Zone IV.
- At the entrance of Zone IV are several warning signs alerting individuals to the continual presence of the strong magnetic field, as well as describing contraindicated items such as some pacemakers, credit cards, and weapons.
- MRI Group also has ferromagnetic detectors to help identify unsafe ferrous objects before they can be brought into Zone IV.

### How do you prevent inadvertent entrance into the room during a scan?

- Zone III is a restricted area continually monitored by highly trained MRI staff. No one is allowed to enter Zone IV (the scan room) without being screened, cleared and escorted by MRI personnel.
- Technologists can visualize the door to Zone IV from their consoles. Some locations have chains or other physical barriers in front of the door to Zone IV for an additional level of protection.

### Is everyone who will be in the suite during the scan trained in MRI safety?

- All MRI Group staff members are trained annually in the basic and advanced principles of MRI safety. Additionally, MRI Group has worked with LG Health to develop a computer-based learning module to provide annual MRI safety training to LG Health staff who may work in or around the MRI department.
- For those who have no or little training, MRI Group's adherence to ACR four-zone and screening recommendations ensure that all parties remain safe.

### Does the facility share space with other types of imaging devices?

- Some MRI Group locations do share space with other imaging modalities (i.e., CT scanner). However, in these areas the ACR four-zone recommendation is implemented as are numerous other policies to ensure the complete safety of patients and staff in the area.



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