

MR imaging guidelines for General Practitioners

Due to a demand and limitation of a single regional MRI scanner, MRI request are limited to the following:

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

-MR Angiogram Brain: Accepted for patients with 1st degree relative with berry aneurysm.

-MR Internal Acoustic Meatus: Accepted for patients in which the clinical concern is acoustic neuroma.

-MRI Brain: Accepted for clinical concern of MS.

-MRI Shoulder/Elbow/Wrist/Hip/Knee/Ankle: MSK imaging is limited to large joints. Small joint MRI requires Radiologist discussion or Orthopaedic request.

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.

Please ensure to accurately complete the MRI Safety questions with the patient.

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.