Welcome

Your doctor has scheduled you for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) exam. This brochure should answer most of your questions.

Catholic Health offers MRI services at four convenient locations: Kenmore Mercy Hospital, Sisters of Charity Hospital, Mercy Hospital of Buffalo, and Williamsville Diagnostic Center.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Magnetic resonance images are produced by using two natural, harmless forces — magnetic fields and radio waves. With the use of computers, information from your scan allows physicians to provide an accurate diagnosis of your medical condition. Images created by the MRI scanner are similar to an X-ray, but the MRI process can “see” through hard bone to the soft tissues in your body — like muscles and internal organs. These images are very precise, showing differences between normal and abnormal tissues.

No special preparation is required prior to an MRI exam. You may eat normally and go about your daily routine. Continue to take any medication prescribed by your doctor unless otherwise directed.

Cancellations

Cancellations sometimes are unavoidable, however, we ask that you notify us one day in advance whenever possible. This courtesy assists the staff in daily scheduling of other patients who may be waiting for an appointment.
Preparing For Your MRI Scan

The MRI staff will ask if you have had brain, ear, eye or other surgeries, or the following:

- Pacemaker
- Neurostimulators (TENS-unit)
- Metal implants
- Aneurysm clips
- Surgical staples
- Implanted drug infusion device (insulin pump)
- Exposure of metal fragments to your eye
- Shrapnel
- Permanent eyeliner
- Heart valves

If you are pregnant, please notify your physician and the MRI staff. Please check with your physician if you are uncertain about any of these items.

During Your MRI Exam

In the magnet room, a technologist will assist you onto the padded table. The table will move slowly into the magnet opening. You will hear sounds similar to a drumbeat as pictures of your body are formed. Your doctor may order contrast (dye) to be administered for your test to enhance areas of interest. At all times during the exam a technologist will be able to see and hear you.

After Your MRI Exam

You may leave immediately following the procedure. The radiologist will study the MRI images and report the results to your physician. Your doctor will schedule a time with you to discuss the results of your MRI exam.

Insurance

We will bill your insurance company directly. Please bring your insurance card and referral or authorization form (if necessary) on the day of your exam.

Some insurance carriers require pre-certification for MRI exams. Please check with your insurance provider to see what their requirements are.