

MRI Safety Screening Procedure

The radiography student may have the opportunity to enter the MRI suite; whether it be observation, a rotation, or a call for help. In MRI, the magnetic field is ALWAYS on; therefore, entering the MRI suite with ferromagnetic objects or an implanted device poses a threat to the student or anyone in the suite and is strictly prohibited.

The following protocols are in place:

- All students must complete an MRI safety-screening sheet prior to attending clinical to ensure that they are safe to enter the MRI suite.
- All students must comply with each clinical site's policy and procedures pertaining to ferromagnetic or metallic objects in the MRI suite to avoid ferromagnetic projectiles from entering the MRI suite.
- All students will have MRI safety lecture that will include videos on MRI safety

Students must complete an MRI Screening Form prior to beginning their scheduled clinical rotation

MRI Screening Policy

1. Students must complete an MRI Screening Form prior to beginning their Clinical Education 1 rotation.
 - i. An example of this form may be found at:
http://www.mrisafety.com/SCREENING_FORM/PreScrnF.pdf
2. The screening form is reviewed by the Program Director and will be kept in the student's permanent file.
3. Students who answer "yes" to any of the questions on the MRI Screening Form may be required to undergo additional screening to ensure their safety.
 - i. Additional screening may consist of further questions, documentation of metal implants or diagnostic procedures assuring metal has been removed
4. Any health changes that place metal in the body or bodily alterations that will change a "No" answer to a "Yes" must be immediately reported.

The Rules of MRI Safety

To ensure student safety and the safety of personnel and patients in the department, it is important that students respect and follow the rules of MRI safety at all times while in the MRI environment.

- The MRI safety policies and screening requirements for each Clinical Education Setting (CES) must be followed.
- Do not enter the MRI suite unless cleared and accompanied by an MRI technologist.
- Assume the magnet is always ON.
- Carrying magnetic items or equipment into the MRI suite is strictly prohibited. These items can become projectiles causing serious injury or death and/or equipment failure. These items include, but not limited to, most metallic item such as: oxygen tanks, wheelchairs, carts, monitors, IV poles, laundry hampers, tools, and/or furniture. MRI compliant medical equipment is available for use in the MRI department.

- Personal magnetic items must be removed prior to entering the MRI suite. These include the following: Purse, wallet, money clip, credit cards or other cards with magnetic strips, electronic devices such as beepers/cell phones, hearing aids, metallic jewelry (including all piercings), watches, pens, paper clips, keys, nail clippers, coins, pocket knives, hair barrettes/hairpins, shoes, belt buckles, safety pins, and any article of clothing that has a metallic zipper, buttons, snaps, hooks or under-wires.

- Disclose or ask the supervising MRI technologist or faculty about all known indwelling metallic device(s) or fragment(s) the student may have prior to entering the MRI suite to prevent internal injury. Injury risks In addition to the personal items listed, students are advised that any metallic implants, bullets, shrapnel, or similar metallic fragment in the body pose a potential health risk in the MRI suite. These items could change position in response to the magnetic field, possibly causing injury. In addition, the magnetic field of the scanner can damage an external hearing aid, or cause a heart pacemaker/defibrillator to malfunction.

Examples of items that may create a health hazard or other problems in the MRI suite include:

- Cardiac pacemaker, wires, heart valve(s) or implanted cardioverter defibrillators (ICD)
- Neurostimulator system
- Aneurysm clip(s)
- Surgical Metal
- Metallic implant(s) or prostheses
- Implanted drug infusion device
- History of welding, grinding or metal injuries of or near the eye
- Shrapnel, bullet(s) or pellets
- Permanent cosmetics or tattoos (if being scanned)
- Dentures/teeth with magnetic keepers
- Eye, ear/cochlear, or other implants
- Medication patches that contain metal foil (i.e. transdermal patch)

Items that are allowable in the MRI suite, and that generally do not pose a hazard to the student or other persons include:

- Intrauterine devices (IUD's)
- Gastric bypass devices (lapbands)
- Most cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) shunts

Prior to a special rotation in MRI, each facility may require additional medical screening (such as a radiograph of the orbits), which may require a physician's order.

Please review the American College of Radiology's guidelines for MRI safety: ACR Guidance Document on MR Safe Practices and the American College of Radiology's MR Safety Guidelines available at: <http://www.acr.org/quality-safety/radiology-safety/mr-safety>