

Imaging Department

MRI/LUMBAR SPINE

Your doctor has scheduled you for a MRI of your lumbar spine. There are a few things you should know about before you arrive at the MRI department. Any person with a PACEMAKER or NEUROSTIMULATOR must be approved by MRI prior to scheduling appointment.

PREPARATION: There is no special preparation for your test, however, please let us know if you have any concerns for claustrophobia or being in a narrow space. You will also need to remove your jewelry, watch, hearing aids and dental work.

BEFORE THE TEST: For your safety, you will be asked to fill out an MR screening form, which will be reviewed by the technologist prior to testing. Among the things you will be asked are:

- What kind of symptoms are you having?
- Do you have any implanted stents, metal, mechanical or electronic devices?
- Have you **ever** done any welding or grinding?
- Any recent or previous surgeries?
- Whether or not you are (or may be) pregnant?

THE TEST: Because the MRI machine is loud we will give you earplugs to protect your hearing and keep you more comfortable. You will be lying on your back. The scan is very sensitive to motion; it is very important that you lay still and quiet. We will give you a squeeze ball to hold during the test; the technologist cannot be in the scan room with you, we will be watching you, but will not be able to hear you speak. Should you need us at anytime during the test, squeeze the ball; we will stop the test and check on you immediately. You may possibly receive an injection of contrast toward the end of your test. Most people have no problems or side effects from this. The technologist will review the contrast information with you and have you a sign consent form. Once your scan begins it will take approximately 30 to 60 minutes.

AFTER YOUR TEST: You will be returned to your room. There are no restrictions from the MRI department after your test.

RESULTS: The radiologist will study your images in great detail after you have left the department. The doctor will dictate a report, which will be transcribed for your ordering physician to review and discuss with you. Your physician will receive the report within 48 hours. Your technologist is unable to give you any report at the time of testing.

Every effort will be made to make you as comfortable as possible during your examination. If you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to the imaging staff at 574-364-2873.