

QHC Diagnostic Imaging Department

MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)

What is an MRI?

An MRI is a study that produces a series of highly detailed images of specific parts of the body. This type of study uses a very powerful magnetic field to generate a series of cross-sectional images of the body part requested by your physician. These images can be manipulated to demonstrate anatomy more clearly. The magnet is 4 feet long, open at both ends, with plenty of light, and a fan.

Who performs your MRI?

A medical radiation technologist with specialized training and certification in MRI.

What happens during the procedure?

The technologist performing the exam will bring you into the change area, where he/she will ask a series of questions to ensure that it is safe for you to undergo the MRI exam. You will be asked to change into a gown. You will also be asked to remove all jewellery, hairpins, and any other metal objects. The technologist will proceed to bring you in the room and explain the procedure. They will have you lie down on the table. “Coils” are placed over/around the part being examined. The table will move into the scanner. It is important that you remain very still during the exam. You will hear a lot of noise from the magnet during the scan, therefore earplugs will be provided.

Sometimes the radiologist (x-ray doctor) reviewing your paperwork, will request the use of a contrast agent that is injected. This allows certain anatomy to be better visualized. The details of the injection, if required, will be explained to you by the MRI technologist.

The length of your procedure will range from 20 minutes to 1 hour.

When and how will I know the results?

Your physician will receive a written report from the radiologist (specialized medical doctor). You should obtain the results from your physician. If there is an urgency, your physician is more than welcome to contact us by phone.