

MRI Guidelines

General Practitioner referred MRI items for adults and children



I-MED Radiology
Network

Comprehensive care. Uncompromising quality.

Medicare Eligible MRI services:

**Please include detailed clinical notes on the imaging request form to ensure Medicare reimbursement.*

Adults

| Region | Indication |
|-----------------------|--|
| Head | For a patient 16 years or older for any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unexplained seizure(s)• Unexplained chronic headache with suspected intracranial pathology |
| Cervical Spine | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cervical radiculopathy• Cervical spine trauma |
| Knee | For patients aged 16-49 years with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acute knee trauma with inability to extend knee suggesting the possibility of acute meniscal tear• Clinical findings suggesting acute anterior cruciate ligament tear |

Children (under 16 years)

| Region | Indication |
|--------------|--|
| Head | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unexplained seizure(s)• Unexplained headache where significant pathology is suspected• Paranasal sinus pathology which has not responded to conservative therapy |
| Spine | Following radiographic examination of any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant trauma• Unexplained neck or back pain with associated neurological signs• Unexplained back pain where significant pathology is suspected |
| Knee | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internal joint derangement |
| Hip | Following radiographic examination for any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suspected septic arthritis• Suspected slipped capital femoral epiphysis• Suspected Perthes disease |
| Elbow | Following radiographic examination where: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant fracture or avulsion injury is suspected that will change management |
| Wrist | Following radiographic examination where: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scaphoid fracture is suspected |



Non-Medicare Eligible MRI services

MRI is also recommended for the following patient presentations in the primary care setting however will not attract a Medicare rebate with Adult GP referral.



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| Region | Indication |
|-------------------------|--|
| Brain | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suspected tumour• Demyelination• Internal auditory meatus / cerebello-pointine angle• Congenital anomalies• White matter disease e.g. suspected encephalopathy, demyelination, encephalitis, leukodystrophy• Hydrocephalus• Pituitary fossa and supra-sellar disease |
| Shoulder | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rotator cuff tear• Impingement syndrome• Post-dislocation/recurrent dislocation associated injury• Adhesive capsulitis• Labral tear / SLAP injuries• Chondral injury |
| Spine | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disc disease / nerve root compression• Spinal cord disease e.g. demyelination, transverse myelitis, tumour, syringomyelia• Spinal cord compression• Infection e.g. epidural abscess, discitis |
| Abdomen | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bile duct stones and pathology• Pancreas pathology• Rectal carcinoma staging |
| Chest | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breast cancer detection, evaluation of breast implants |
| Pelvis | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gynaecological imaging e.g. uterine anomalies, ovarian and uterine masses• Prostate – local staging of cancer, surveillance of low grade cancer |
| Knee | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meniscal Tear/Pathology• Internal Derangement, especially cruciate or collateral ligament tear• Haemarthrosis• Patellar Chondromalacia, Pain or Subluxation• Locking symptoms• Osteochondritis dissecans |
| Elbow | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tennis Elbow• Bicipital Bursitis or Distal Biceps Tendon Tear• Golfer's Elbow• Ligament Injury |
| Hip | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avascular necrosis• Greater trochanteric bursitis/Gluteal tendonopathy• Stress fracture• Occult fractures of pelvis and hips in elderly• Transient osteoporosis |
| Ankle & Foot | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avascular necrosis• Post-traumatic Bone Contusion• Talar Dome Injury• Morton's Neuroma• Plantar Fasciitis• Tendon Injury – Achilles, Tibialis Posterior, Peroneus brevis• Ligamentous Injury |

**Need
more help?**

If you have any questions or enquiries regarding our MRI service please contact your local I-MED Radiology clinic or your Account Manager.