

## Who can I contact if I have a problem when I get home?

If you experience any problems related to your surgery or admission once you have been discharged home. Please feel free to contact 4A, 4B or 4C ward for advice from the nurse in charge. They will assist you via the telephone, advise you return to your GP or ask you to make your way to the ED department at Whiston Hospital depending upon the nature of your concern.

4A Ward – 0151 430 1420

4B Ward – 0151 430 1637

4B Ward – 0151 430 1643

Whiston Hospital  
Warrington Road,  
Prescot, Merseyside, L35 5DR  
Telephone: 0151 426 1600



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## Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Information

This leaflet can be made available  
in alternative languages / formats on request.

如有需要，本传单可提供其他语言/版式  
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Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona  
w innych językach/formatach.

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## What is an MRI Scan?

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a type of scan that uses strong magnetic fields and radio waves to produce detailed images of the inside of the body. An MRI scanner is a large tube that contains powerful magnets. You lie inside the tube during the scan. An MRI scan can be used to examine almost any part of the body.

## What happens during an MRI scan?

During an MRI scan, you lie on a flatbed that's moved into the scanner. Depending on the part of your body being scanned, you'll be moved into the scanner either head first or feet first.

The MRI scanner is operated by a radiographer, who is trained in carrying out imaging investigations. They control the scanner using a computer, which is in the adjoining room, to keep it away from the magnetic field generated by the scanner. At certain times during the scan, the scanner will make loud tapping noises. This is the electric current in the scanner coils being turned on and off. You'll be given earplugs or headphones to wear to dampen the noise levels; however you will still hear some noise. If you are given headphones it may be possible to listen to music during the scan.

The radiographer will be able to speak to you during the scan, either through the headphones or through a speaker on the scanner. You will be given a buzzer to hold, should you need the radiographers you just need to squeeze this and they will come straight into the room to speak to you. You will be monitored during the scan by the radiographers who can see you through the window.

It's very important to keep as still as possible during your MRI scan. Any movement can cause the images to become blurred and therefore non diagnostic. The scan lasts 15 to 90 minutes, depending on the size of the area being scanned and how many images are taken.

Sometimes it may be necessary to give you an injection of a dye as part of the scan, this will go into a vein in your arm/hand. It is very rare to experience any side effects after this injection. You will be advised to drink plenty of water for the next 24 hours if you do receive one.

**Safety** - Not everyone can have an MRI scan, due to the effects of the strong magnetic field on certain implants which may be inside your body. The radiographer will go through a questionnaire with you on the day which will highlight any issues there may be. Common issues include some pacemakers, aneurysm clips and cochlear implants.

An MRI scan is a painless procedure. You may find it uncomfortable if you have claustrophobia, but most people find this manageable with support from the radiographer. Going into the scanner feet first may be easier, although this is not always possible. Please wear as little metal as possible all jewelry, piercings and hair accessories will need to be removed.

You may or may not be asked to get changed as part of your examination. MRI scans don't involve exposing the body to X-ray radiation. This means people who may be particularly vulnerable to the effects of radiation are safe to have the scan.

**After an MRI scan** - In most cases, there are no after-effects and after the scan. unless instructed by the nursing staff to remain Nil by Mouth you can eat and drink.

You may be told the results of your scan soon after it's been carried out, but in most cases the images will need to be analysed and a report will be sent to the doctor who referred you for the scan who in due course will give you your results.

There may be students present during your consultation as part of their on-going training. Please let the staff know if you wish to be seen by a doctor only.