

Going for an MRI

Why am I being sent for an MRI?

Following your assessment with an Advanced Physiotherapy Practitioner (APP), you have been sent for an MRI scan to further assess your symptoms.

What is an MRI scan?

An MRI scan (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) uses magnetic and radio waves to produce images, meaning there is no exposure to any radiation. MRI scans give a very clear picture of the structure of the body part imaged. More information on the procedure can be found at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/mri-scan/>

When is an MRI scan useful?

They are useful to see if there is any structural cause for symptoms that may benefit from orthopaedic treatment, such as injections or surgery. It is also useful in rare circumstances where serious pathology needs to be ruled out e.g. cancer, infection, or fractures.

MRI scans do not show pain but may show common age-related changes e.g. osteoarthritis, disc dehydration, disc height change. We will always interpret the findings alongside your clinical symptoms.

How long will I have to wait for the MRI scan?

Most MRI scans are completed within six weeks of referral. The radiology department at the **Royal Berkshire Hospital** will contact you to arrange this. If you have not heard from them, you can contact them directly on **0118 322 7991**.

If you have any claustrophobia or any concerns regarding your MRI, please inform the radiology team if you have not already informed your APP during your assessment, as measures can be put in place to make the experience easier for you.

How long will I have to wait until I receive my results?

- Once you have had your scan, the images will be viewed and reported on by a Consultant Radiologist
- Following this, the APP will contact you by telephone or letter to discuss your results and agree upon the recommended management/treatment plan

Until this process has been completed, we will be unable to give you your MRI results.

Please allow a minimum of 6 weeks from the date of your scan before calling with any queries.



If you have any questions about the MRI Scans, please call the IPASS Team on **0118 904 6139**