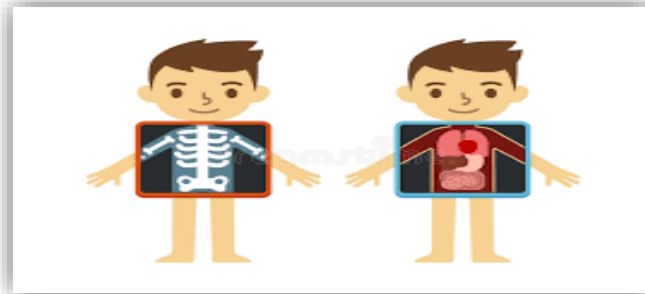


INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR PARENTS / GUARDIANS MRI SCAN

RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT



Welcome to the Radiology Department where we strive to work in partnership with your child and family's needs to deliver personalized care. Please inform staff of any individual needs or care that your child may need during your time here.

INFORMATION

The Radiology Department, also known as the X-ray Department, consists of 2 main areas with many members of staff.

OUR STAFF COMPRISES OF:

- Clinical Nurse Manager 2 - Green tunic
- Clinical Nurse Facilitator - Navy tunic with red trim
- Staff Nurses and Health Care Assistants - Green scrubs (top and bottoms)
- Radiographers (who perform the x-rays/scans) - Green tunic/Green scrubs
- Radiographer Students - Bright Blue Scrubs
- Nursing Student - White tunic with blue trim
- Play Specialist - Yellow tunic
- There are also members of the Medical teams & radiologists (in plain clothes) in our department



WHAT IS AN MRI SCAN?

An MRI scan (magnetic resonance imaging) uses a magnet and radio waves instead of x-rays to take detailed pictures of the inside of your child's body, for example his/her legs, arms, brain or heart.

Because there is a very strong magnet in the MRI scanner. It is very important that your child removes any metal before entering the MRI scanner. Items such as belts, buckles, coins, toys containing metal etc. must **NOT** be taken into the scanner.

If your child has had any surgery in the past, has any implants or devices in their body, it is very important that you tell a member of staff before they go into the scanner.

An MRI is a painless scan but it can be very noisy. Your child will be given earphones or earplugs to protect their ears against the noise.

PROCEDURE FOR AN MRI SCAN

The MRI scanner looks like a doughnut shaped tunnel. Your child will lie down on a bed/table that is in this tunnel. Strapping, called coils, will be placed over the area to be scanned. For example, if your child is for a scan of his/her right knee, a coil will be placed over his/her right knee.

MRI SCAN WHEN YOUR CHILD IS AWAKE

It is important that your child does not move during the scan because it can affect the quality of the pictures. MRI scans can take 20 to 30 minutes. The Radiographer will talk to you and your child about what to expect during an MRI scan. They will also check in with your child during the scan to make sure they are ok. To help your child relax and feel comfortable he/she can listen to music or watch a movie, a parent can also go into the room with their child. Please discuss this with your radiographer. Some children will need contrast or dye during their scan. If so, he/she will need an IV cannula, also called a Freddy, inserted for this.

MRI SIMULATOR

It is important to try and prepare your child for their MRI scan. Within the Radiology Department we have a MRI Simulator which the Play Specialist will play a key role to prepare your child.

This is a child-friendly, rocket shaped mock MRI scanner. Your child can use the simulator to get used to having an MRI scan and practice staying very still. It can also allow the child to experience the noise during an MRI scan. If you think your child will benefit from a 'practice run' in the simulator, please talk to the doctor that has booked the MRI scan. They can book a simulator appointment for him/her.



MRI SEDATION

In some cases your child may need to be sedated to have their scan. This means that your child will be asked to drink a medicine that will make him/her sleepy. Your child will be fasting from food and drinks. You will be contacted before your appointment to explain this and to tell you what time your child has to commence fasting. This can be discussed with your team/Doctor and will require an admission to the hospital day unit as your child will need to stay in the hospital after the scan for monitoring until he/she is awake. While sedated, we will monitor your child very closely. Please take the time to read the [Sedation Parent Information Leaflet](#).

MRI UNDER GENERAL ANAESTHETIC

Your child requires a general anaesthetic for his/her MRI scan. A general anaesthetic means your child will be given medicine to make them go to sleep. He/she will not move and will not feel pain during a general anaesthetic. For this, your child will be admitted to the Day Units, on the morning of the scan. He/she will need to be fasting from food and drinks.

You will be contacted before your appointment to explain this and to tell you what time your child has to commence fasting from. A doctor called an Anaesthesiologist or Anaesthetist will give your child a general anaesthetic to keep your child 'asleep' for the duration of their scan. Please take the time to read the *General Anaesthetic Parent Information Leaflet*.

INFECTION CONTROL

We ask that when you enter and leave the Radiology Department you use the alcohol hand gel provided or wash your hands.

Please do not hesitate to ask any member of hospital staff if they have washed their hands or used hand gel prior to caring for your child and also to participate in **Bare Below Elbow**.

Also prior to your admission to hospital please can you inform a member of the Radiology Department if your child attends another hospital in Ireland or abroad.

CONFIDENTIALITY

We respect your child's privacy and dignity. In order to maintain confidentiality we will not discuss or relay information to relatives or friends via phone or verbally in the department.

SMOKING

OLCHC is a smoke free hospital, smoking is prohibited on hospital grounds.

SECURITY

The security office is located at the main entrance of the hospital. All lost property should be given to the officer on duty. The hospital cannot accept responsibility for lost or stolen personal property. Please do not leave valuables unattended in the department.

COMPLIMENTS / SUGGESTIONS / COMPLAINTS

We welcome your views on the service we provide in the Radiology Department. All feedback is welcome as we continually try to improve the care we provide. We acknowledge that at times patients, parents/guardians and families can become upset, worried and frustrated when attending hospital. Please address any concerns that you may have to the Clinical Nurse Manager or Radiology manager on duty. We also acknowledge long fasting times for the children can be difficult for both parents and children. We always try to minimize the length of time children are fasting.

If your concerns cannot be dealt with at Department level the staff of the Patient Advocacy and Corporate Services (PACS) Department are available to meet with you.

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