MRI Ordering Guide

**BREAST/CHEST/CARDIAC**

**MRI Breast W Contrast** ........................................ CPT Code 77050 & 0159T
- Newly diagnosed breast cancer
- High risk and/or screening for breast cancer
Note: Please call 314-362-7111 for the Contrast Enhanced Breast MRI Request Form. Pre-approval by the Breast Health Center is required prior to scheduling for all contrast enhanced breast MRIs.

**MRI Breast Unilateral W/O Contrast** ........................ CPT Code 77058A
- Silicone implant evaluation
Note: Non-contrast enhanced breast MRI to evaluate integrity of silicone implants does NOT require pre-approval.

**MRI Breast Bilateral W/O Contrast** .......................... CPT Code 77059A
- Silicone implant evaluation
Note: Non-contrast enhanced breast MRI to evaluate integrity of silicone implants does NOT require pre-approval.

**MRI Chest W/O Contrast** ....................................... CPT Code 71550
- See list of indications for MRI Chest W and W/O Contrast
(Note typically performed without contrast. Consult radiologist to discuss alternative imaging.)
- Patient with renal insufficiency or hemodialysis
- Patient pregnant

**MRI Chest and W/O Contrast** ................................. CPT Code 71552
- Lung cancer/Mediastinal mass/Pancoast tumor/Plural disease
- Chest wall mass
- Brachial plexus mass/lesion/plexopathy

**MRI Chest W and W/O Contrast** ............................... CPT Code 71551
- See list of indications for MRI Chest W and W/O Contrast
(Note typically performed without contrast. Consult radiologist to discuss alternative imaging.)
- Patient with renal insufficiency or hemodialysis
- Patient pregnant

**MRA/MRV W/O Contrast** ....................................... CPT Code 71554
- See list of indications for MRA/MRV W/O Contrast
(Note typically performed without contrast. Consult radiologist to discuss alternative imaging.)
- Patient with renal insufficiency or hemodialysis
- Patient pregnant

**MRA/MRV Chest W/O Contrast** ................................ CPT Code 71555A
- See list of indications for MRA/MRV Chest W/O Contrast
(Note typically performed without contrast. Consult radiologist to discuss alternative imaging.)
- Thoracic aorta (dissection)
- Patient with renal insufficiency or hemodialysis
- Patient pregnant

**MRA/MRV Chest W and W/O Contrast** ....................... CPT Code 71555C
- See list of indications for MRA/MRV Chest W and W/O Contrast
(Note typically performed without contrast. Consult radiologist to discuss alternative imaging.)
- Thoracic aorta (dissection)
- Patient with renal insufficiency or hemodialysis
- Patient pregnant

**MRI Cardiac W/O Contrast** .................................... CPT Code 75557
- RV dysplasia
- Patient with renal insufficiency or hemodialysis
- Coronary artery disease
- Patient pregnant

**MRI Cardiac W and W/O Contrast** .......................... CPT Code 75561
- Aortic or mitral valve
- Cardiac perforation

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**MUSCULOSKELETAL BONE AND JOINT**

**MRI Pelvis (Bony) W/O Contrast** ............................. CPT Code 72195

**MRI Upper Extremity Joint W/O Contrast** ................. CPT Code 73221

**MRI Upper Extremity Non Joint W/O Contrast** ........... CPT Code 73218

**MRI Lower Extremity Non Joint W/O Contrast** .......... CPT Code 73718

**MRI Lower Extremity Joint W/O Contrast** ................. CPT Code 73721

**MRI Lower Extremity Non Joint W/O Contrast** .......... CPT Code 73720

**MRI Arthrogram Upper Extremity Joint** ................... CPT Code 73222

**MRI Arthrogram Lower Extremity Joint** ................... CPT Code 73722

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**PROCEDURAL PROTOCOL**

Updated March 31, 2015
### BRAIN/SPINE

**MRI Orbits, Face or Neck W/O Contrast**  
CPT Code 70549  
- See list of indications for MRI Orbits W and W/O Contrast  
- Not typically performed without contrast. Consult radiologist to discuss alternative imaging.  
- Patient with renal insufficiency or hemorrhology  
- Patient pregnant

**MRI Orbits, Face or Neck W and W/O Contrast**  
CPT Code 70543  
- E1 Orbits:  
  - Graves’ Disease  
  - Exophthalmus  
  - Proptosis/Disproportional visual field defect  
  - Optic Neuropathy/Optic Nerve Lesion/Tumor/Infection (add CPT 70553 for Brain W/O Contrast)  
- Orbit or eye swelling (infection)  
- Cranial Nerves I-VI and perineural spread of tumor  
- E3 Dedicated Face and Parasellar Sinuses (will not include whole neck for regional lymph nodes, exam focused on dedicated facial imaging)  
  - Known or suspected lesion in Face or Parasellar Sinuses  
  - Sinusitis/Sinusonal Cancer  
  - Known or suspected lesion in Oropharynx/Nasoopharynx  
- Tongue  
- Floor of Mouth  
- E2 Neck (Soft Tissue):  
  - Infection/Local Cord Paralysis  
  - Known or suspected lesion in Thyroid/Parathyroid  
  - Known or suspected lesion in Parotid Gland  
  - Neck Mass/Adenopathy

**MRA Brain W/O Contrast (Circle of Willis)**  
CPT Code 70544  
- Suspected aneurysm or acute intracranial hemorrhage  
- Patient with renal insufficiency or hemorrhology  
- Patient Pregnant  
  - (Typically performed without contrast when scanning along with contrast enhanced MRA Neck)

**MRA Brain W and W/O Contrast (Whole Brain)**  
CPT Code 70546  
- Known or suspected arteriovenous malformation  
- Known or suspected aneurysm or stroke  
- (Not typically performed without contrast when scanning along with contrast enhanced MRA Neck)

**MRI Neck W/O Contrast**  
CPT Code 70547  
- See list of indications for MRA Neck W and W/O Contrast  
  - Not typically performed without contrast. Consult radiologist to discuss alternative imaging.  
  - Patient with renal insufficiency or hemorrhology  
  - Patient pregnant

### ABDOMEN/PELVIS/EXTREMITY

**MRI Abdomen W/O Contrast**  
CPT Code 74181  
- See list of indications for MRI Abdomen W and W/O Contrast  
- Not typically performed without contrast. Consult radiologist to discuss alternative imaging.  
- Patient with renal insufficiency  
- Patient pregnant

**MRI Abdomen W and W/O Contrast**  
CPT Code 74183  
- Adrenal lesion characterization  
  - Pheochromocytoma  
  - MEN syndrome  
  - Renal lesion characterization  
  - RCC staging  
  - TCC/Hematuria/Obstructed renal system (order MR Urogram)  
- Liver/Pancreas lesion characterization (Add 3D CPT Code 76376)  
  - Pancreatitis/Cholangioma  
  - Distal of intrapancreatic bile duct/biliary tree/Columbia's disease/Renal pain  
  - HCC/Hepatitis/Carcinoma  
  - Hematomas  
  - Body wall mass

**MRI Abdomen W and W/O Pelvis With Contrast**  
CPT Code 74183 & 72196  
- Primary abdominal pathology  
- Known lesion lesions  
- Metastasis work up

**MRI Abdomen W & Pelvis and W/O Contrast**  
CPT Code 74182 & 72197  
- Primary pelvic neoplasm  
- Screening abdomen for pelvic or bladder neoplasm  
- Decrease risk of hepatic lesion

**MRI Abdomen W/O Contrast**  
CPT Code 74185A  
- See list of indications for MRI Abdomen W and W/O Contrast  
  - Not typically performed without contrast. Consult radiologist to discuss alternative imaging.  
  - AAA  
  - Patient with renal insufficiency or hemorrhology  
  - Patient pregnant

**MRI Abdomen W and W/O Contrast**  
CPT Code 74185C  
- Pre stent graft evaluation  
- Renal artery stenosis  
- Post stent graft evaluation  
- Renal donor evaluation (with MR Urogram)  
- Mesenteric ischemia

**MRA Neck W and W/O Contrast**  
CPT Code 70545  
- Carotid stenosis  
- Aortic arch  
- Carotid body tumor  
- Vascular tumor (Add CPT Codes 70553 & 70544 MRI/MRA Brain)

**MRI Brain W/O Contrast**  
CPT Code 70553  
- SD Headache  
- SD Memory Loss/Dementia/Alzheimer’s  
- SD Mental status change/Dizziness/Confusion  
- SD Acute trauma  
- SD Patient with renal insufficiency or hemorrhology  
- SD Patient pregnant

**MRI Brain W and W/O Contrast**  
CPT Code 70553  
- SD Poor trauma  
  - SD CVA/SAH (Add CPT Codes 70544 & 70549 MRI Brain & Neck)  
- SD Multiple sclerosis  
- SD Known or suspected AVM or aneurysm (Add CPT Code 70544 for MRA/MRV brain)  
- SD Suspected brain tumor (Metastatic disease  
  - Known include perfusion imaging)  
- SD Elevated protein levels/Plagion lesions (micro or macroadenoma)  
- SD Temporal lobe/Chronic seizure (Epilepsia)  
- SD Infection/Abscess/Meningitis/AIDS  
- SD Temporal bones/Tinnitus/Cholesteatoma/Sensory neural hearing loss/Acoustic neuroma/Bell’s Palsy/ Meniere’s disease/Cranial nerves V, VII-XII  
  - Note: E9 does not include whole brain unless specifically requested in addition.)

**MRI C-Spine W/O Contrast**  
CPT Code 72141  
- SD Discitis  
- SD Syrinx  
- SD Multiple sclerosis  
- SD Spinal cord compression (T & L spine Only)  
  - Compression fractures with history of malignancy

**MRI C-Spine W and W/O Contrast**  
CPT Code 72146  
- SD Discitis  
- SD Epidural abscess/Tumor  
- SD Post-op evaluation (C-Spine only)  
- SD Patient pregnant

**MRI L-Spine W/O Contrast**  
CPT Code 72148  
- SD Spondylolisthesis  
- SD Myelopathy  
- SD CNS infection/AIDS

**MRI L-Spine W and W/O Contrast**  
CPT Code 72158  
- SD Discitis  
- SD Epidural abscess/Tumor  
- SD Post-op evaluation (C-Spine only)  
- SD Patient pregnant

**MRI Pelvis W/O Contrast (Body & MSK Pelvis)**  
CPT Code 72195  
- Urinary anomaly/Malformation (Body Pelvis)  
- Pregnancy apply/WLD pain (Body Pelvis)  
- Hip pain/Fracture (Bone Pelvis)  
- Patella/Sports hernia (Bone Pelvis)

**MRI Pelvis (Bone) W and W/O Contrast**  
CPT Code 72197  
- Tumor/Mass  
- Septic/tuberculosis lesion/Metastatic disease/PTU  
- Tumor/Mass/Osteomyelitis/Sepic arthritis (Bone Pelvis)  
- Osteomyelitis

**MRI Pelvis W/O Contrast (Whole Pelvis)**  
CPT Code 72197  
- Prostate cancer (CT MR)  
- Suspected pelvic mass  
- Scoliosis/Vestibular/Pelvic cancer  
- Hema (menstrual, laparoscopic, uterine, femoral or inguinal)  
- Bladder cancer/Rectal cancer  
- Endometriosis/Endometrial cancer  
- Fibroids  
- Pelvic floor relaxation  
- Ureteral diverticulum/Urethral cancer/Perirenal mass (with endovaginal coil)  
- Arthritis  
- Osteomyelitis

**MRI/MRV Pelvis W/O Contrast**  
CPT Code 72198  
- Pelvic DVT  
- Pelvic DVT and Varicose veins (Add CPT Code 72195C for MRA/MRV thigh)  
- Leg swelling with suspected pelvic mass (Add CPT Code 72195C for MRA/MRV thigh)

**MRI Runoff-GISS W/O Contrast**  
CPT Code 74185A & 73725A  
- PVOD  
- Patient with renal insufficiency or hemorrhology  
- Patient pregnant

**MRI Runoff W and W/O Contrast**  
CPT Code 74185C & 73725C  
- PVOD  
- Radiation or bone resection/Fibrous flav-graft (CPT Code 73725C only)  
- Known or suspected vascular malformation  
- Vascular malformation thigh/Calf (Time resolved MRI W/Runoff)  
- Popliteal entrapment
**BRAIN/SPINE**

**MRI Orbits, Face or Neck W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 70549
  - See list of indications for MRI Orbits W and W/O Contrast

**MRI Orbits, Face or Neck W and W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 70543
  - E1 Orbits
    - Sinusitis/Sinusoma
    - Known or suspected lesion in Parotid Gland
    - Neck Mass/Adenopathy

**MRA Brain W/O Contrast (Circle of Willis)**
- CPT Code 70554
  - Suspected aneurysm or acute intracranial hemorrhage
  - Known or suspected arteriovenous malformation
  - Patient with renal insufficiency or hemodialysis
  - Patient pregnant

**MRA Brain W and W/O Contrast (Whole Brain)**
- CPT Code 70546
  - See list of indications for MRA Neck W and W/O Contrast
  - Known or suspected lesion in Parotid Gland

**MRA Neck W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 70547
  - See list of indications for MRA Neck W and W/O Contrast
  - Patient with renal insufficiency or hemodialysis
  - Patient pregnant

**ABDOMEN/PELVIS/EXTREMITY**

**MRI Abdomen W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 74181
  - See list of indications for MRI Abdomen W and W/O Contrast

**MRI Abdomen W and W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 74183
  - Adrenal lesion characterization
    - Pheochromocytoma
    - MEN syndrome
  - Renal lesion characterization
    - RCC staging
    - RCC/Hematouria/Obstructed renal system (order MR Urogram)
  - Liver/Pancreas lesion characterization (Add 3D CPT Code 76376)
    - Pancreas/Cholangiocarcinoma
    - Distalation of retroperitoneal bile duct/biliary tree/Caroli’s disease/RLQ pain
    - HCC/Hepatitis/Carcioma
  - Hematocromatosis
  - Body wall mass

**MRI Abdomen W and W/O & Pelvis With Contrast**
- CPT Code 74183 & 72196
  - Primary abdominal pathology
  - Known liver lesions
  - Metastasis work up

**MRI Abdomen W & Pelvis W and W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 74182 & 72197
  - Primary pelvic neoplasm
  - Screening abdomen for pelvic or bladder neoplasm
  - Decrease risk of hepatic lesion

**MRI Abdomen W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 74185A
  - See list of indications for MRI Abdomen W and W/O Contrast

**MRI Abdomen W and W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 74185C
  - Pre stent graft evaluation
  - Renal artery stenosis
  - Post stent graft evaluation
  - Renal donor evaluation (with MR Urogram)
  - Mesenteric ischemia

**MRA Neck W and W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 70560
  - Carotid stenosis
  - Acute aortic
  - Carotid body tumor
  - Vascular tumor (Add CPT Codes 70553 & 70544 MRI/MRA Brain)

**MRA Brain W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 70555
  - Sinusitis/Sinusoma
  - Known or suspected lesion in Parotid Gland
  - Neck Mass/Adenopathy

**MRA Brain W and W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 70553
  - Suspected brain tumor/Metastatic disease (will include perfusion imaging)
  - Known or suspected aneurysm or excluded
  - TIA/CVA/Stroke (add CPT Code 70544 & 70549; MRA Brain & Neck)
  - Multiple sclerosis
  - Multiple myeloma
  - Tumor/Mass/Osteomyelitis/Septic lumbosacral plexus mass/Lesion/Plexopathy
  - Tumor/Cancer/Mets
  - Muscle/Tendon tear/OA
  - Inflammation/Inflammatory disease
  - Erosive arthritis/OA
  - Postop evaluation (T and L spine Only)

**MRI Orbits, Face or Neck W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 70540
  - Otitis/Parotid enlarge
  - Otic tumor
  - Medullary osteoma
  - Known or suspected lesion in Parotid Gland
  - Neck Mass/Adenopathy

**MRI Orbits, Face or Neck W and W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 70543
  - Otitis Media
  - Panfacial/scaphoid/Cholesteaoma
  - Tinnitus/Cholesteaoma/Sensory neural hearing loss/Acoustic neuroma/Bell’s Palsy
  - E9 Temporal bones/Tinnitus/Cholesteaoma/Sensory neural hearing loss/Acoustic neuroma/Bell’s Palsy
  - B2 Infection/Abscess/Meningitis/AODS

**MRI Orbits W and W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 72141
  - E9 Temporal bones/Tinnitus/Cholesteaoma/Sensory neural hearing loss/Acoustic neuroma/Bell’s Palsy
  - B2 Infection/Abscess/Meningitis/AODS
  - B12 Elevated prolactin levels/Platypnea levels (micro or macroanoma)
  - B9 Temporal lobe/Chronic seizure (Epilepsy)
  - B2 Infection/Abscess/Meningitis/AODS
  - E9 Temporal bones/Tinnitus/Cholesteaoma/Sensory neural hearing loss/Acoustic neuroma/Bell’s Palsy

**MRI T-Spine W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 72146
  - T2C/VTA/Stroke
  - Basal/Subarachnoid aneurysm

**MRI T-Spine W and W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 72148
  - DDO/Hemiated disc
  - Pain/Radicularity
  - Postop evaluation (C-Spine only)
  - Patient pregnant

**MRI L-Spine W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 72157
  - Discitis
  - Epidural abscess/Tumor
  - Multiple myeloma
  - Myelopathy
  - C2 CVA/TIA/Stroke (add CPT Codes 70553 & 70544 MRI/MRA Brain)

**MRI L-Spine W and W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 72158
  - Discitis
  - Epidural abscess/Tumor
  - Multiple myeloma
  - Myelopathy
  - CNS infection/AODS

**MRI Pelvis W/O Contrast (Body & MSK Pelvis)**
- CPT Code 72195
  - Urinary anomaly/Malformation (Body Pelvis)
  - Pregnancy apply/RLQ pain (Body Pelvis)
  - Hip pain/Fracture (Body Pelvis)
  - Pelvis/Pelvis/Pathology (Bone Pelvis)

**MRI Pelvis (Bone) W and W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 72197
  - Tumor/Mass
  - Septic lumbosacral plexus mass/Lesion/Plexopathy
  - Tumor/Mass/Osteomyelitis/Septic arthritis (Bone Pelvis)

**MRI Pelvis W and W/O Contrast (Body) (Bone Pelvis)**
- CPT Code 72197
  - Prostate cancer (UT MR)
  - Suspected pelvic mass
  - Scrotal/Vesicular/Perineal cancer
  - Hernia (Incisional, incisional, posterior, femoral or inguinal)
  - Bladder cancer/Rectal cancer
  - Endometritis/Endometrial cancer
  - Fibroids
  - Pelvic floor relaxation
  - Urethral diverticulum/Urethral cancer/Periurethral mass with endovascular coil
  - Arthritis
  - Osteomyelitis

**MRI/MRV Pelvis W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 72198
  - Pelvic DVT
  - Muscle/Tendon tear/AVN (Bone Pelvis)
  - Patient with renal insufficiency or hemodialysis
  - Patient pregnant

**MRI/MRV Pelvis W and W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 72199
  - Pelvic DVT
  - Varicose veins (Add CPT Code 73725C for MRA MRV thigh)
  - Leg swelling with suspected pelvic mass (Add CPT Code 73725C for MRA MRV brain)

**MRI Runoff-QISS W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 72180
  - PVD
  - Claudication
  - Leg swelling with suspected pelvic mass (Add CPT Code 73725C for MRA/MRV thigh)
  - Patient with renal insufficiency or hemodialysis
  - Patient pregnant

**MRI Runoff W and W/O Contrast**
- CPT Code 72185
  - PVD
  - Claudication
  - Leg swelling with suspected pelvic mass (Add CPT Code 73725C for MRA/MRV thigh)
  - Patient with renal insufficiency or hemodialysis
  - Patient pregnant
MRI Ordering Guide

MRI Chest W and W/O Contrast .................................. CPT Code 71552
MRI Chest W/O Contrast ........................................ CPT Code 71550
MRI Breast Bilateral W/O Contrast .............................. CPT Code 77059A
MRI Breast Unilateral W/O Contrast ............................ CPT Code 77058A
MRI Breast W Contrast .......................................... CPT Code 77059C & 0159T

BREAST/CHEST/CARDIAC does NOT require pre approval.

by the Breast Health Center is required prior to scheduling for all contrast enhanced breast MRIs.

- Brachial plexus mass/lesion/plexopathy
- Chest wall mass
- Lung cancer/Mediastinal mass/Pancoast tumor/Pleural disease
- Patient pregnant
- Patient with renal insufficiency or hemodialysis
- See list of indications for MRI Chest W and W/O Contrast
- Silicone implant evaluation
- High risk and/or screening for breast cancer
- Newly diagnosed breast cancer

(Not typically performed without contrast. Consult radiologist to discuss alternative imaging.)

Note: Non-contrast enhanced breast MRI to evaluate integrity of silicone implants

Note: Please call 314-362-7111 for the Contrast Enhanced Breast MRI Request Form. Pre-approval

BJW21226 3/15 314-996-8514
7 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology
314-996-8080

for Gadolinium chelate contrasts (MRI dye)

Prednisone:
50 mg PO (four doses total) to be taken 19 hours, 13 hours, 7 hours and 1 hour prior to appointment.

Diphenhydramine (Benadryl):
50 mg PO to be taken 1 hour prior to exam

Patients who are allergic to iodinated contrast (CT dye) do not require premedication

Only patients who have known allergy to Gadolinium chelate contrasts (MRI dye) require premedication

Premedication for Contrast Allergy

- Patients who are allergic to iodinated contrast (CT dye) do not require premedication for Gadolinium chelate contrasts (MRI dye)
- Only patients who have known allergy to Gadolinium chelate contrasts (MRI dye) require premedication

Premedication Protocol

- Prednisone: 50 mg PO (four doses total) to be taken 19 hours, 13 hours, 7 hours and 1 hour prior to appointment.
- Diphenhydramine (Benadryl): 50 mg PO to be taken 1 hour prior to exam

All exams are read by radiologists from Washington University’s Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology.
For questions regarding how to order any of the MRI scans or how to reach the appropriate sub-specialty radiologist, please call 314-996-8514.
To schedule any radiology exam please call Radiology Scheduling 314-996-8080 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday.