

## **MRI Scan-Lumbar Procedure (With and/or Without Contrast)**

To Schedule: (319) 398-6794

Questions about Procedure: (319) 398-6050

### **What is a MRI?**

A MRI scan produces dimensional images by using a large magnet and radio waves. It is a way of looking inside the body without using x-rays. A strong magnetic field is created and a radio frequency is beamed into that magnetic field. Measurements of energy from the tissue being scanned are sent to the computer where the screen image will be recorded. Your MRI scan will take approximately 20-30 minutes.

### **Preparation:**

You may eat and drink before the exam and take your medications. The day before your exam drink plenty of water so you are well hydrated. Being hydrated will ease the discomfort for those receiving contrast.

Patients who are claustrophobic may require oral sedation prior to the MRI scan. Please contact your physician and discuss the use of medication that can be taken at home before the exam. Be aware that you must have someone to drive you to and from the hospital if you are pre-medicated.

Patient's that **MAY NOT** be allowed to have an MRI, please check with your physician:

1. Persons wearing a pacemaker/defibrillator
2. Persons who are pregnant
3. Persons who have brain surgery with aneurysm clips
4. Persons who have metal shrapnel in eyes
5. Persons who have ear implants

**PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT:  
A PHOTO IDE TO VERIFY YOUR IDENTITY**

### **Procedure:**

It is important to lie still throughout the entire exam as any motion may distort the image. During the exam, you will hear LOUD knocking sounds so you will be given earplugs.

### **Exams That Require Contrast:**

This exam is ordered with an IV contrast to be given half way through the exam. If you are over 60, diabetic or have high blood pressure, a blood test called Serum Creatinine is needed. This can be done within 6 weeks prior to the exam or at the time of the exam.

**Parking/Registration:**

Park in the Mercy Medical Center 10<sup>th</sup> Street Parking Ramp, located at the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE. You will be pre-registered, so you can proceed to **Ground (G)** level and follow the signs to “Radiology (X-Ray),” also located on **Ground (G)** level.

**Procedure Results:**

Please allow 2 business days from your exam for your physician to review your Radiology results.

**Your appointment date and time:**

Procedure date: \_\_\_\_\_

Procedure time: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please arrive 15 minutes early)