

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Patient Instructions

What It Is

- **Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)** is a medical test that helps doctors diagnose and treat medical conditions.
- MRI uses a magnetic field, radio frequency pulses and a computer to produce pictures of organs, soft tissues, bone, and other internal body structures.
- MRI does not use radiation (X-rays).
- MRI creates images that let doctors better see various parts of the body. This helps find changes in your body that may not be seen with other imaging methods, such as X-ray, ultrasound, or CT (computed tomography) scan.

How to Prepare

- **Please arrive at your appointment time.** If you are unable to arrive at your appointment time, we may need to reschedule your exam.
- If you have an allergy to MRI contrast agents, contact your physician in advance to prescribe appropriate pre-medication for your MRI.
- If you have any devices implanted in your body, bring documentation with you.
- If you are scheduled for an MRCP, do not eat or drink anything for **4 hours** prior to your MRI appointment.
- If an MRI patient coordinator does not contact you for pre-screening, please call 617-632-3004.

What to Expect

- You may be required to have blood work to check renal function prior to your MRI.
- You will check in for your MRI in the Dana building on level L1 **or** floor 3. **Check your appointment sheet next to "Radiology Provider" to see where you should check in:**
 - **1.5T** is located on **level L1** in the Dana building
 - **3T** is located on the **third floor** in the Dana building

How to Find Us

MRI has two locations in Dana-Farber's Dana building: **level L1** and **floor 3**. To get to **level L1** or **floor 3** from Dana-Farber's parking garage or any floor of the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care, please use one of these route options.

A. MRI on floor 3, option 1:

1. From the **third floor of the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care**, cross the **PMC Bridge** to reach the **Dana building**.
2. Turn left at the end of the PMC Bridge and follow signs to the third floor **MRI check-in area**.

B. MRI on floor 3, option 2 (unavailable on Saturdays):

1. From **level P2 of the parking garage**, walk through the **Tomsich Family Gallery (Gene Display)** to reach the **Dana building**.
2. Follow signs to the **Dana building elevators** and take an elevator up to **floor 3**. Then follow signs to the third floor **MRI check-in area**.

C. MRI on level L1, option 1:

1. From the **third floor of the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care**, cross the **PMC Bridge** to reach the **Dana building**.
2. Take a **Dana building elevator** down to level **L1** and follow the signs to the **MRI Suite**

D. MRI on level L1, option 2 (unavailable on Saturdays):

1. From **level P2 of the parking garage**, walk through the **Tomsich Family Gallery** (gene display) to reach the **Dana building**.
2. Follow signs to the **Dana building elevators** and take an elevator up to level **L1**. Then follow the signs to the **MRI Suite**.

For driving directions to Dana-Farber, visit www.dana-farber.org/directions or call **617-632-3400**.

Questions?

To cancel your appointment or get answers to a question, call the location of your scheduled appointment:

- **1.5T:** L1 Imaging reception desk, **617-632-3004**. Open weekdays from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- **3T:** Dana 3 Imaging reception desk, **617-632-3950**. Open weekdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.