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 30 minutes prior to your appointment time. If you are unable to arrive 30 minutes prior to 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 abdominal 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 (Longwood) or 617-485-5510 (Chestnut Hill).

What to Expect
- Your exam may require an IV for MRI contrast. You may be required to have blood work to check renal function prior to your MRI.
- You will check in for your Longwood MRI in the Dana building on level L1 or floor 3. You will check in for your Chestnut Hill MRI on the 4th floor at the imaging desk on the left side of the waiting room. 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
  - Both 1.5T and 3T are located on the 4th floor at Chestnut Hill

How to Find Us
Longwood Campus (Boston)
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:
   a. From the third floor of the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care, cross the PMC Bridge to reach the Dana building.
   b. 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):
   a. From level P2 of the parking garage, walk through the Tomsich Family Gallery (Gene Display) to reach the Dana building.
   b. Follow signs to the Dana building elevators and take an elevator up to floor
   c. Then follow signs to the third floor MRI check-in area.

C. MRI on level L1, option 1:
   a. From the third floor of the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care, cross the PMC Bridge to reach the Dana building.
   b. 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):
   a. From level P2 of the parking garage, walk through the Tomsich Family Gallery (gene display) to reach the Dana building.
   b. Follow signs to the Dana building elevators and take an elevator up to level L1. Then follow the signs to the MRI Suite.

Chestnut Hill Campus (Newton)

MRI is located on the 4th floor of the Lifetime Center building. Enter the parking garage on Boylston Street and park on level P3. Take the Boylston elevators to the 3rd floor for screening before checking in at Upper Imaging on the 4th floor.

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. Weekends from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- 3T: Dana 3 Imaging reception desk, 617-632-3950. Open weekdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Chestnut Hill Imaging reception desk 617-485-5510. Open weekdays from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.