

A GUIDE TO MRI SCAN REFERRAL FROM “SPINE PLUS”

Protocol

If you would like to book for an initial assessment with a view to receiving an MRI scan referral at VISTA DIAGNOSTICS the procedure is as follows:

- Call the SPINE PLUS reception team on (020)7000 1894 weekdays between 9 am and 5 pm. Tell them you would like to book in for an MRI referral consultation. They will then book you in for a 20 minute consultation appointment.
- If possible please download our new patient registration form under the downloads tab on our website www.spineplus.co.uk
- Please arrive at least 5 to 10 minutes early for your appointment as there may be additional forms for you to fill in on arrival.
- During the consultation the clinician will take a case history including details of current symptoms, past and present medical history. This will be followed by a thorough assessment involving procedures such as observing your posture and the way you move, feeling muscle tone and joint movement, neurological and orthopaedic tests e.g. testing your reflexes with a patella hammer etc.
- At the end of the consultation, if appropriate the clinician will fill out a referral form that will be forwarded to VISTA DIAGNOSTICS. They will then contact you to arrange a suitable time to perform your scan.
- After your scan, a radiologist's report will be sent to the clinician who originally assessed you. This may take up to one week following your scan. The clinician will then contact you either by telephone or email to tell you the results and may give you further recommendations.

Frequently asked questions:

Why do I need to be referred for a scan if I am paying for it myself ?

Most MRI centres are obligated by their code of ethics to ensure patients have first been assessed by an appropriate clinician. The clinician considering making the referral can make an objective assessment as to whether or not a scan is the correct course of action. Sometimes a patients clinical signs and symptoms indicate an area of the body to be scanned that is different to where they experience discomfort, for example in the case of referred pain or trapped nerves. If a scan is appropriate, the clinician can help determine the correct area of the body to be scanned. Such clinical information needs to be put on a referral form so that the radiographer and the radiologist can do their jobs properly.

Am I guaranteed to be referred for a scan ?

The majority of people using this service will receive a relevant MRI referral. However it would be unethical to refer someone for a scan who obviously did not need one, in this instance alternative advice will be given during the consultation.

Who will carry out my assessment ?

All our assessments are carried out by Spine Plus consultant osteopaths, all of whom have considerable experience and expertise at dealing with and assessing musculoskeletal conditions.

Why should I choose Spine Plus for my referral ?

We are currently offering this service at a considerably discounted price of £25. Where necessary we can also offer follow up advice and treatment or put you in touch with a recommended specialist.

What should I wear?

You may be asked to undress down to your underwear. If you are uncomfortable with this you are welcome to change into shorts (if you are a gentlemen) or shorts and a sports bra / vest (if you are a lady). If you are uncomfortable with removing any items of clothing we will totally respect your wishes and do the best we can but this may compromise the quality of our assessment.

Will you offer any advice or treatment following the results of my scan ?

As well as our MRI referral service we also provide manual therapy including osteopathy, medical acupuncture and remedial/sports massage. If any of these therapies are likely to help your condition we will suggest this to you when delivering the results of your scan. However you are under no obligation to take this up and you are free to consult other providers of such therapies if you wish. If some other sort of specialist or consultant is more appropriate we will tell you and will be happy to help put you in touch with the right person.

Will I be assessed in a private treatment room?

Yes. We have individual consultation/treatment rooms to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

Appropriate conditions

The service we operate is appropriate for sports injuries and musculoskeletal conditions such as:

- Back and neck pain
- Sciatica and nerve entrapments
- Tension headaches
- Shoulder pain
- Elbow and wrist pain
- Hip pain Knee pain
- Foot & Ankle problems

Patient privacy and confidentiality

Our staff are sensitive to the diversity of patients backgrounds, to their fears and anxieties and always endeavour to meet their expectations in a timely manner. All patient information is kept confidential and held in a secure manner and only ever released with prior written authorisation from the patient.

Payment Terms and Conditions

Payment of **£25** is required on the same day as the consultation. You will be required to pay the clinician direct either by cash, cheque or credit/debit card.