MRI Scheduling Questions - UMHS Radiology

These questions are asked by Radiology Call Center staff when someone calls to schedule an MR exam. They help us determine where/when to best schedule the exam, and if patient preparation is required. We hope that you are better prepared when you call, so that we can expedite your call.

1. **Does the patient have any metal implants, surgical clips (including aneurysm clips), valves, cardiac pacemaker, or a tens unit?**
   - If yes, please be prepared to know the type of metal or implant, date of implantation, and facility where the implant procedure was done (if applicable). Documentation and/or screening x-rays may be required prior to the exam to determine if the metal is MRI compatible.

2. **Has the patient worked around metal or have a history of metal fragments in eyes?**
   - If yes, screening x-rays are required to determine if an MRI exam can be performed safely, as metal in the eye can move in the strong MRI magnet, resulting in blindness.

3. **Does the patient require sedation for claustrophobia, pain control or motion control?**
   - If yes, please indicate the level of sedation needed, as prescribed by the referring physician: *either mild sedation, nurse sedation or general anesthesia*

4. **Has the patient ever had an allergic reaction to gadolinium (MRI contrast agent)?**
   - If yes, the patient may require a prescription for a steroid prep (to be written by ordering physician) if the MR examination requires contrast, and may only be scheduled at UH.
   - Please note, nausea and vomiting are not considered a contrast allergy and do not require a patient prep.
   - Note: the Radiology Call Center staff maintain a list of protocols that are usually performed without contrast as a reference.

5. **Does the patient have special needs (ex: wheelchair, oxygen, prisoner, group home)?**
   - If yes, the patient must be scheduled at University Hospital or Mott Hospital for adults and children respectively (not EAA MR).

6. **If female, is there any chance the patient may be pregnant?**
   - If yes, the ordering health care provider must contact the appropriate radiologist to discuss the possible adverse effects, and the patient must sign a consent form.

7. **What is the patient’s height and weight?**

8. **Does the patient have a power port/PICC line that is to be used for contrast injection?**
   - If a *purple PICC*, the patient can be scheduled anytime University Hospital or Mott Hospital. *All others* must be scheduled at University Hospital or Mott Hospital from Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm. The patient should be reminded to bring their ID card to the MR appointment.

9. **Does the patient have Renal Failure or Kidney Insufficiency?**
   - If yes, this will be documented to alert our MR technologists and radiologists to make sure this the renal function/creatinine clearance is evaluated when the patient arrives for the MR examination.