

MRI EXAM CPT CODE REFERENCE

Use this reference to quickly determine the correct exam for your patients based on the indications described herein and the CPT for the order.



Please review the MRI safety checklist with each patient. Notify WR Express Scheduling if your patient has a history of renal failure. Creatinine levels can be obtained prior to contrasted studies, if needed at all WR MRI locations. Call if you have any questions 919-232-4700.

For their comfort, IV sedation is available for your patients upon request. Patients receiving sedation must be accompanied by a driver.

BODY PART	PROCEDURE FOR PRE-AUTHORIZATION	CPT CODE	INDICATIONS FOR EXAM OR STUDY		CONTRAST*	SPEC
BRAIN MRI	MRI Brain without contrast	70551	Alzheimer's Mental status change Confusion Dementia Memory Loss Suspected MS	Stroke/CVA TIA (transient ischemic attack) Trauma Dizziness/Vertigo Headaches	No Contrast	Neuro
	MRI Brain with and without contrast	70553	Tumor/Mass/Cancer Cranial nerve lesions HIV/AIDS Infection MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Neurofibromatosis Hearing loss, IAC mass Bell's Palsy (facial weakness)	Pituitary lesion Acoustic neuroma Syringomyelia (Syrinx) Visual change Metastases Vascular lesions (AVM) Elevated prolactin	Yes Contrast	Neuro
MRA BRAIN: Arterial Circulation Circle of Willis (COW)	MRA Brain without contrast	70544	Aneurysm, family history TIA (transient ischemic attack) Stroke/CVA (cerebrovascular accident)		No Contrast	Neuro
MRA BRAIN: Venous Circulation	MRA Brain without contrast	70544	Venous thrombosis		No Contrast	Neuro
	MRA Brain with and without contrast	70546	AVM Venous circulatory symptoms	Sinus thrombosis	As determined by radiologist	Neuro
MRA NECK	MRA Neck with and without contrast	70549	Bruit Stroke CVA (cerebrovascular accident) TIA (transient ischemic attack) Abnormal doppler or dizziness		Yes Contrast	Neuro
MRI ORBITS Includes brain plus cuts thru the orbits	MRI Brain with and without contrast	70553	Trauma Graves Disease Exophthalmos/proptosis	Pseudotumor Tumor/Mass/Cancer/Mets Vascular lesions (Hemangioma)	Yes Contrast	Neuro
MRI NECK Soft Tissue	MRI Orbits/Face/Neck with and without contrast	70543	Infection Pain	Tumor/Mass/Cancer/Mets Vocal Cord Paralysis	Yes Contrast	Neuro
MRI SPINE: Cervical	MRI Cervical Spine without contrast	72141	Neck pain Arm/Shoulder pain Disk herniation (HNP)	Numbness Degenerative disk disease Radiculopathy	No Contrast	Neuro Ortho
	MRI Cervical Spine with and without contrast	72156	Syringomyelia (Syrinx) Discitis (disk infection) Osteomyelitis	Myelopathy MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Tumor/Mass/Cancer/Mets	Yes Contrast	Neuro Ortho
MRI SPINE: Thoracic	MRI Thoracic Spine without contrast	72146	Back Pain Degenerative disk disease Disk herniation (HNP) Radiculopathy	Trauma Compression fracture (No history of malignancy)	No Contrast	Neuro Ortho
	MRI Thoracic Spine with and without contrast	72157	Syringomyelia (Syrinx) Discitis (disk infection) Osteomyelitis	Myelopathy MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Tumor/Mass/Cancer/Mets	Yes Contrast	Neuro Ortho
MRI SPINE: Lumbar	MRI Lumbar Spine without contrast	72148	Back/leg pain Degenerative disk disease Disk herniation (HNP) Radiculopathy Trauma Scoliosis	Sciatica/radiculopathy Spondylolisthesis Spinal stenosis Compression fracture (No history of malignancy)	No Contrast	Neuro Ortho
	MRI Lumbar Spine with and without contrast	72158	Discitis (disk infection) Osteomyelitis	Post-op Hx of back surgery Tumor/Mass/Cancer/Mets	Yes Contrast	Neuro Ortho
MRI LUMBOSACRAL PLEXUS	MRI Pelvis without contrast	72195	Leg Pain/sciatica Radiculopathy	Lumbar plexopathy Sacral/coccyx pain	No Contrast	Neuro
MRI BRACHIAL PLEXUS	MRI Upper Extremity Non-joint with and without contrast	73220	Shoulder injury Nerve avulsion	Brachial plexopathy	Determined by Radiologist	Neuro
MRI CHEST: Mediastinum	MRI Chest/Mediastinum with and without contrast	71552	Tumor/Mass/Cancer/Mets		Yes Contrast	Body
MRA AORTA	MRA Aorta with and without contrast	74185	Abdominal aortic dissection		Yes Contrast	Body
MRA AORTA: With peripheral runoff	MRA Aorta with and without contrast MRA Lower Extremity with or without contrast	74185 73725	Peripheral vascular disease Claudication		No Contrast	Body
MRA CHEST	MRI Chest with and without contrast	71555	Excluding cardiac myocardium Thoracic aorta		Yes Contrast	Body
BREAST MRI	MRI Breast Bilateral with and without contrast	77059	Newly diagnosed breast cancer Family history of breast cancer BRCA 1 or BRCA 2 genes (Some criteria may apply) Implant integrity/Rupture		Yes Contrast	Body
MRI ABDOMEN: General	MRI Abdomen with and without contrast	74183	Tumor/Mass/Cancer/Mets Abdominal pain		Yes Contrast	Body
MRI ABDOMEN: Liver			Post embolization Hemangioma Hepatoma	Hepatitis Cirrhosis Increased liver function tests		
MRI ABDOMEN: Renal			Hematuria (blood in urine) Renal mass (cyst or solid) Transitional cell carcinoma of kidney Abnormal findings			
MRI ABDOMEN: Adrenal	MRI Abdomen with and without contrast	74183	Adrenal mass or lesion Pheochromocytoma	Hypertension	Determined by Radiologist	Body
MRCP: Biliary	MRI Abdomen with and without contrast	74183	Abdominal pain Biliary obstruction Stones	Jaundice Abnormal enzymes	Yes Contrast	Body
MRCP: Pancreas	MRI Abdomen with and without contrast	74183	Pancreatitis Pancreas mass Cholangiocarcinoma PSC (Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis)	Increased liver function tests Painless jaundice Ampulla evaluation	Yes Contrast	Body
MRA ABDOMEN	MRA Abdomen with and without contrast	74185	Renal artery stenosis Hypertension	Mesenteric arterial Ischemia	Yes Contrast	Body
MRA PELVIS: Iliac vessels	MRA Pelvis with and without contrast	72198	Pelvic venous thrombosis		Yes Contrast	Body
MRI PELVIS Soft Tissue: General	MRI Pelvis with and without contrast	72197	Pain Abscess	Tumor/Mass/Cancer/Mets Decubitus ulcer	Yes Contrast	Body
MRI PELVIS Soft Tissue: Uterus/Ovaries	MRI Pelvis with and without contrast	72197	Fibroid Adenomyosis Infertility	Pre/Post-Uterine Fibroid Embolization (UFE) Endometrioma Ovarian Mass	Yes Contrast	Body
MR ENTEROGRAPHY	Dual Study: MRI Abdomen with and without contrast MRI Pelvis with and without contrast	74183 72197	Crohn's disease Celiac disease (Sprue)	Crohn's fistulous disease Small bowel tumor	Yes Contrast and glucagon	Body
MRI EXTREMITY, NON-JOINT: Forearm Humerus Lower Leg/Calf Femur/Thigh	MRI Non-Joint without contrast: Upper Extremity Lower Extremity	73218 73718	Fracture Stress fracture Muscle or tendon tear		No Contrast	Ortho
	MRI Non-Joint with and without contrast: Upper Extremity Lower Extremity	73220 73720	Abscess Ulcer Tumor/Mass/Mets Plantar fasciitis	Myositis Osteomyelitis Morton's neuroma Soft tissue tumor or mass	Yes Contrast	Ortho
MRI EXTREMITY, JOINT: UPPER Hand Wrist Elbow Shoulder SC Joint LOWER Foot Ankle Knee Hip	MRI Joint without contrast: Upper Extremity Lower Extremity	73221 73721	Arthritis Avascular necrosis (AVN) Stress fracture Internal derangement Joint pain (OCD)	Meniscal tear Muscle tear Ligament tear Cartilage tear Osteochondritis dissecans	No Contrast	Ortho
	MRI Joint with and without contrast: Upper Extremity Lower Extremity	73223 73723	Abscess Ulcer Cellulitis Plantar fasciitis Myositis	Osteomyelitis Inflammatory arthritis Septic arthritis Tumor/Mass/Mets Labral tear	Yes Contrast	Ortho
MRI PELVIS/HIP (BONY)	MRI Pelvis without contrast	72195	Fracture Hip/Pelvis Pain	Trauma Muscle/Tendon tear	No Contrast	Ortho
	MRI Pelvis with and without contrast	72197	Tumor/Mass/Cancer/Mets Osteomyelitis	Septic arthritis	Yes Contrast	Ortho
MRA UPPER EXTREMITY	MRA Upper Extremity with and without contrast	73225	Subclavian Redness or swelling	Tenderness	Yes Contrast	Ortho
MRA LOWER EXTREMITY	MRA Lower Extremity with and without contrast	73725	Peripheral vascular disease		Yes Contrast	Ortho
MR ARTHROGRAM Upper Extremity Shoulder Elbow Wrist	MRI Upper Extremity Joint with contrast	73222	Slap tear Labral tear Loose body TFCC tear	Ligament Injury Tunnel syndrome	Yes Contrast	Ortho
MR ARTHROGRAM Lower Extremity Hip Knee Ankle	MRI Lower Extremity Joint with contrast	73722	Labral tear FAI (Femoroacetabular impingement) Loose body OCD lesion (Osteochondritis Dissecans)		Yes Contrast	Ortho