

<b>Policy title</b>	<b>Open magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans V1.1</b>
<b>Policy position</b>	<b>Criteria Based Access</b>
<b>Date of Forum recommendation</b>	<b>May 2017</b>

Open MRI scanning is not routinely available and should be used only where one of the following two criteria are met.

### **Category 1 - Claustrophobia**

In the first instance all referrals will be reviewed by a radiologist, the radiology department can meet with any patient that has concerns regarding MRI scanning to alleviate any fears. Some patients will decide to try and undergo the MRI scan without sedation following this.

If fears cannot be alleviated or the patient fails an MRI scan without sedation, if suitable, the patient could be offered sedation under clinical supervision. This should usually be oral sedation. Other modalities e.g. CT (computed tomography) scan can be considered as an alternative if suitable.

The application would need to evidence that the sedation pathway has been followed.

### **Category 2 - Patient size**

The size of a patient and the restriction of the MRI scanner tunnel will vary depending on the patients and the circumstances. Some patients may be large but would still be suitable for a conventional closed MRI.

In the first instance, the patient should be invited to attend the radiology department and be formally assessed by the radiology service for suitability. If the closed MRI is not suitable and the referring consultant still feels that an MRI scan is needed, the patient could be considered for an Open MRI scan.

### **NOTE:**

- This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance e.g. from NICE
- Where a patient does not meet the policy criteria or the intervention is not normally funded by the NHS, an application for clinical exceptionality can be considered via the ICB's Individual Funding Request (IFR) Policy and Process

## **Clinical coding:**

OPCS Procedure codes:\*

U01.2 Magnetic resonance imaging of whole body

U05.2 Magnetic resonance imaging of head

U05.5 Magnetic resonance imaging of spine

U07.2 Magnetic resonance imaging of chest

U08.5 Magnetic resonance imaging of abdomen

U09.3 Magnetic resonance imaging of pelvis

U13.3 Magnetic resonance imaging of bone

U21.1 Magnetic resonance imaging NEC

U37.1 Magnetic resonance imaging of kidneys

\*OPCS codes relate to conventional MRI scans. No OPCS codes are available specifically for open MRI scans and standing or upright MRI scans.

Key words: Open MRI, magnetic resonance imaging