Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

Appointment Date and Time: _____/_____/_____ at ______________.

Please arrive 1 hour before your child’s scheduled appointment time. If you have any questions or need to reschedule the appointment, call (816)234-3270.

The Test:

Your child has been scheduled for an MRI scan. This scan uses a strong magnet to take pictures. Because the scan uses such a powerful magnet, patients with certain metal implants, such as pacemakers, a vagal nerve stimulator, programmable shunt or aneurysm clips are not candidates for this examination. If your child has any of these devices, call ahead to find out what special arrangements need to be made. Dental implants and braces are generally acceptable, but may affect certain scans. The Radiology department staff will discuss this with you.

In order to perform a successful scan, your child will need to lie still on the MRI table for about one hour. Sedation is often necessary for this scan if your child is:

- Claustrophobic
- Younger than 6 years old
- Unable to lay very still for 30 minutes to 1 hour

If your child requires sedation, please follow these instructions:

- Your child may eat solid food until ________________.
- Your child may have formula, breast milk, or milk until ________________.
- Your child may only drink clear liquids (apple juice, or water) between ________________ and ________________.
- After ________________, DO NOT give your child anything by mouth.

For your child’s safety it is very important that you follow the instructions above.

Before starting the scan, a needle may be placed in a vein to allow for sedation medicine and/or IV contrast material to be given if needed. Be sure to tell the technologist and/or nurse if your child:

- Is allergic to any foods or medicines.
- Has ever had a reaction from this procedure or another radiologic procedure.
- Has significant kidney history.
Tape or straps may be used to hold your child’s head or body still so the pictures will not be blurry. The table will be moved inside the opening of the machine. The technologist will go into an adjoining room to run the machine. A window, intercom and a video camera will allow the technologist to see and speak with your child during the test.

In most cases, parents may remain in the room with their non-sedated child, unless the mother is pregnant or the adult has certain metal implants.

If your child is to be sedated for the MRI, a sedation nurse will remain with your child throughout the scan. Parents will be asked to wait in the waiting room until your child is in the recovery area – about 45 minutes.

**Remove all metal from your child prior to the test, including jewelry and hair barrettes.**

The MRI machine makes a loud jackhammer noise as it takes the pictures. The child and family member staying in the MRI room will be provided with hearing protection.

**Results:**

Wait at least 24 hours after the test has been completed to call your child’s doctor for the results.

We welcome and encourage your involvement whenever possible during your child’s examination. Therefore, it is recommended that you arrange child care for your other children during the time.