

Reference Number: FOI/2020/009
From: Private Individual
Date: 10 January 2020
Subject: MRI facilities

Q1 Does your Trust have a process in place for patients who are unable to fit in, or use, an MRI machine but who may need a MRI scan? If so, what is this process?

A1 The Trust has two wide bore scanners that hold a weight up to 250kg; therefore the chance of having a patient who does not fit into the scanners is very rare. There may be patients who are claustrophobic and so will fit but cannot tolerate the scan however with the wide bore this is also a rarity.

Should a patient be claustrophobic we will offer to rebook the patient to give them the opportunity to get a light prescription sedative from their G.P before a second attempt. If the patient still cannot tolerate the scan the patient will be asked to contact their referrer who will then need to make a decision if a different type of examination can be performed or if there is a different type of scanner the patient can be referred to i.e. open scanner.

Q2 Does your Trust send patients who may need an MRI scan who meet the criteria of being unable to use your Trusts' scanners above, to other locations, for example, zoos or research facilities?

A2 The decision to refer patients to other scanners will be the responsibility of the referring clinician. They will consider if the same answer can be gained from a different type of examination such as CT or Ultrasound and will consider the availability of alternative types of MRI scanners in the local area.

Q3 Does your Trust pay other facilities such as zoos or research facilities for the use of their MRI machines? If so, how much did you Trust pay these facilities last financial year (2019-20)?

A3 Information not held - not applicable as per above

Q4 If applicable, how many patients have needed an MRI in facilities provided in places other than your Trust last year? Please provide the location and reason for this.

A4 Information not held – not applicable as per above