

Open MRI Scanner Criteria Based Access

Before consideration of referral for management in secondary care, please review advice on the Remedy website (www.remedy.bnssg.icb.nhs.uk/) or consider use of advice and guidance services where available.

Open MRI Scanner

GP's may refer patients where:

1. The patient suffers from severe claustrophobia that cannot be managed to enable use of a standard enclosed MRI Scanner.
- OR**
2. The patient's weight or size prevents the use of a standard enclosed MRI Scanner.

Please Note: Standing MRI Scans are not routinely commissioned.

NOTE

If the patient in question is clinically exceptional compared to the cohort, then an Exceptional Funding Application may be appropriate. The only time when an EFR application should be submitted is when there is a strong argument for clinical exceptionality to be made. EFR applications will only be considered where evidence of clinical exceptionality is provided within the case history/primary care notes in conjunction with a fully populated EFR application form.

BRAN

For any health- related decision, it is important to consider "BRAN" which stands for:

- **B**enefits
- **R**isks
- **A**lternatives
- **D**o **N**othing

Benefits

An open MRI scan can support patients with severe unmanageable claustrophobia.

Risks

No evidence has been found to suggest that the magnetic fields and radio waves used during MRI scans could pose a risk to the human body. This means MRI scans are one of the safest medical procedures available. MRI scans may not be recommended in certain situations. For example, patients with metal implant fitted, such as a pacemaker or artificial joint.

Alternatives

A CT scan might be appropriate if a patient cannot tolerate an MRI scan. A sedative or anti-anxiety medicine can be prescribed where appropriate for the patient to take prior to the test. This can help tremendously with claustrophobia and fear.

Do Nothing

Remember, you always have the option to do nothing. Doing nothing is an equally reasonable option to doing something. Sometimes “not yet” is a good enough answer until you gather more information.

Open MRI Scanner – Plain Language Summary

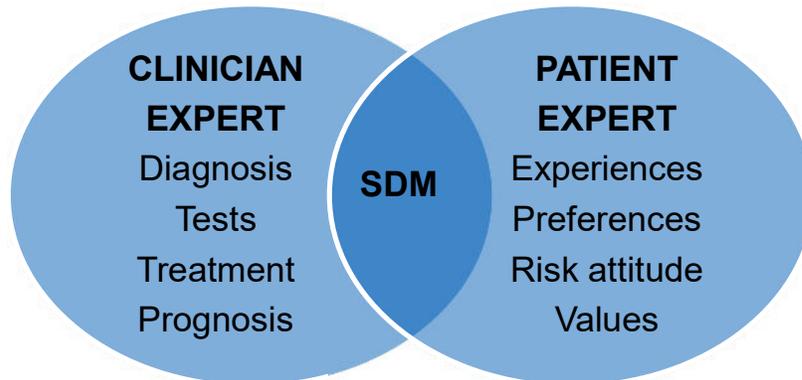
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machines help to diagnose more accurately, a range of medical conditions. Closed MRI scanners have a capsule design. The machine is a magnet, that the patient lies in. A radio wave is used to send signals to the body and receive them back. The returning signals are converted into images by a computer attached to the scanner.

An open MRI scanner still uses magnets to take images of the inside of the body. Instead of an enclosed capsule, the open MRI uses a magnet top and bottom and is open on all four sides. These decrease the risk of claustrophobia and panic attacks exponentially and allows patients of all shapes and sizes to be able to make use of an MRI to accurately diagnose their problems

Shared Decision Making

If a person fulfils the criteria for Open MRI Scanner it is important to have a partnership approach between the person and the clinician.

Shared Decision Making (SDM) is the meeting of minds of two types of experts:



It puts people at the centre of decisions about their own treatment and care and respects what is unique about them. It means that people receiving care and clinicians delivering care can understand what is important to the other person.

The person and their clinician may find it helpful to use 'Ask 3 Questions':

1. What are my options? (see sections above)
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for **me**?
3. How can I make sure that I have made the right decision?

This policy has been developed with the aid of the following:

Ash. (2016). Ash.org.uk. Retrieved Sept 24, 2018, from www.ash.org.uk:
www.ash.org.uk/briefings

Cobalt Health. (n.d.). MRI Scanner Info. Retrieved from Cobalt Health:
<https://www.cobalthhealth.co.uk/patients/patient-diagnostic-scans/patient-mri/>

NHS Website. (2019, August 6th). MRI scan - How it's performed. Retrieved from NHS Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/mri-scan/what-happens/>

NHS Website. (2019, 05 07). NHS UK. Retrieved 10 1, 2019, from www.nhs.uk:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/claustrophobia/>

Thelwall, S. P. (2015). Impact of obesity on the risk of wound infection following surgery: results from a nationwide prospective multicentre cohort study in England. *Clinical microbiology and infection : the official publication of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases*, , vol. 21, no. 11, p. 1008.e1.

Due regard

In carrying out their functions, the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Policy Review Group (CPRG) are committed to having due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). This applies to all the activities for which the CCGs are responsible, including policy development and review.

Document Control

Document Title	Open MRI Scanner
Author(s) job title(s):	Commissioning Policy Development Manager, Clinical Lead for Commissioning Policy Development.
Document version:	2324.02.01
Supersedes:	2324.01.01
Discussed at Commissioning Policy Review Group (CPRG):	23 rd January 2024
Approval Route (see <u>Governance</u>):	Level – 1
Approval Date	5 th March 2024
Date of Adoption:	1 st May 2024
Publication/issue date:	1 st May 2024
Review due date:	Earliest of either NICE publication or three years from approval.

Governance

Commissioning policies are assessed for their likely level of impact on BNSSG ICB and the population for which it is responsible. This determines the appropriate level of sign off. The below described the approval route for each score category.

Policy Category	Approval By
Level 1	Commissioning Policy Review Group.
Level 2	Chief Medical Officer, or Chief Nursing Officer, or System Executive Group Chair
Level 3	ICB Board



**Bristol, North Somerset
and South Gloucestershire**
Integrated Care Board

