

Contact Us

For more details contact:

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We are listening - how did we do?

We welcome your feedback, as it helps us evaluate the services we provide. If you would like to tell us about your experience:



- › speak to a member of staff
- › share your story at: www.careopinion.org.uk
- › visit our website: www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk/feedback
- › tel. 01851 481814, please leave a message on the answering machine if no one is available to answer.

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Disclaimer

The content of this leaflet is intended to augment, not replace, information provided by your clinician. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. Reading this information does not create or replace a doctor-patient relationship or consultation. If required, please contact your doctor or other health care provider to assist you to interpret any of this information, or in applying the information to your individual needs.



Bòrd SSN nan Eilean Siar
NHS Western Isles

Having an MRI at Western Isles Hospital



Important information inside, please read carefully.

Where is the MRI located?

The MRI scanner is located next to the Erisort Ward. **Please note it is not located within the Radiology Department.**

At the hospital's main Reception, take a right and continue along the corridor, following the signage. If you are unsure of where to go please ask one of the Receptionists for help on the day.

What is an MRI Scan?

MRI stands for Magnetic Resonance Imaging.

The MRI uses a powerful magnet and some Radiofrequency pulses to take detailed images of the area we have been asked to scan for you. The images will be sent to a Radiologist (a doctor who specialises in looking at MRI scans) who will inform your Consultant of any findings.

What are the risks?

MRI doesn't use any radiation like X-rays or CT scans, so that is not a consideration. Also, there are no known risks associated with MRI itself.

We are, however, careful about scanning pregnant patients and these requests will be considered individually.

We sometimes need to give an injection of a contrast dye. If you are given this, we will explain the risks in detail when you are in the unit. These can include an allergic reaction, although this is very rare.

Our main safety concern is around the use of such a powerful magnet, which is always switched on. Please adhere to all instructions given to you by the staff at the unit, who are trained to keep you safe.

How can I prepare for the scan?

Please read your appointment letter for instructions that are particular to your scan.

We would advise you remove all piercings, jewellery and magnetic

eyelashes in advance of your scan. If you have a Diabetes monitor we will want you to remove it, and please bring a new one with you.

Please call us if you have an implant or hair extensions which contain metal.

What happens when I arrive for my scan?

In most cases we will ask you to change into a cotton gown which we will provide. Please wear undergarments without any metal.

Can I bring a friend or relative?

Yes, but with MRI safety being so important, we limit additional people beyond the waiting room. For any accompanying children under 16 years old, you will need to bring someone who can supervise them.

What happens during the scan?

The scan can take between 20 and 90 minutes to complete. Once we are happy that we can scan you safely, we will take you into the scan room and position you using the appropriate equipment.

The scanner is very noisy, so part of getting you prepared will involve giving you earplugs and/or headphones to protect your hearing. We also ask that you keep very still for the duration of your scan.

What will happen after the scan?

You will usually be able to leave straight after your scan. You will be able to drive and continue with your normal activities, unless we inform you otherwise prior to your scan.

How will I get the results?

The Radiographers at the Eileanan Siar MRI Care Centre are unable to give you any information about your results.

At your next appointment with your Consultant, you should receive your results.