

MRI UNDER GENERAL ANAESTHETIC: PATIENT PROCESS - CHW

POLICY®

DOCUMENT SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

- There are several aspects that need to be considered when caring for patients requiring a General Anaesthetic (GA) for an MRI Scan:
 - All patients booked for an MRI under GA must have consent and a pre-scan questionnaire complete prior to their arrival in Radiology
 - Is the patient for an MRI under GA allocated to the scheduled or non-scheduled/ emergency list
 - Standard fasting times
 - Who to contact if case is delayed or cancelled
 - Who to contact regarding allocation to all GA lists
- Regardless of whether your patient is a scheduled or an unscheduled case, all patients booked for an MRI under GA **must** have consent and a pre-scan questionnaire complete prior to their arrival in Radiology
- If there are concerns about a patient's wellbeing or if the patient has been fasting for greater than 6 hours for clear fluids, contact the Anaesthetist allocated to the scheduled list (ext 52882) or the Anaesthetist allocated to the Emergency list (page 6777) to review the fasting orders.
- Cancellation of MRI: Patients should remain fasted until direct confirmation from the Anaesthetist of cancellation is received.

This document reflects what is currently regarded as safe practice. However, as in any clinical situation, there may be factors which cannot be covered by a single set of guidelines. This document does not replace the need for the application of clinical judgement to each individual presentation.

Approved by:	SCHN Policy, Procedure & Guideline Committee	
Date Effective:	1 st April 2017	Review Period: 3 years
Team Leader:	NUM	Area/Dept: Radiology

CHANGE SUMMARY

- Due for mandatory review – no changes other than updating phone numbers.

READ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- All nursing staff that care for patients having a MRI under a GA - main areas: CT Ward/ Turner Ward/ Oncology Treatment Unit/ other areas should read and acknowledge this document.

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Background

This document is for all nursing staff responsible for patients having an MRI under a General Anaesthetic (GA). The main areas for this service include (but not limited to) Commercial Travellers Ward/ Turner Ward (TUDS) and the Oncology Treatment Unit (OTC).

If the patient under your responsibility is booked for an MRI under GA, there are several aspects that need to be considered when preparing these patients for this procedure.

Time Scheduled for the MRI

The patient may be booked on either the Elective MRI List, in which case they will have an allocated scheduled starting time, or on the booked Emergency List, as an unscheduled case.

Scheduled Patients

- Many Elective/Scheduled patients come in as Outpatients through TUDS or OTC, and are given specific fasting and arrival times.
- If the child is an in-patient and allocated on the scheduled list, their name will appear on the Operating Theatre Schedule.

Non-Scheduled Patients

Note: It is important to be aware if a patient is an 'unscheduled' case on the Emergency List, as this may impact on their fasting times and the time spent waiting for their MRI.

- Unscheduled cases are booked onto the Operating Suite Emergency List and are not given a specific starting time. They are allocated a time based on the Anaesthetic and Radiology availability.
- If a patient is unscheduled, the ward will be phoned by either the Anaesthetist allocated to the Emergency list or the Anaesthetic nurse allocated to the MRI list to discuss an estimated time for the MRI and to confirm fasting times and consent.

Regardless of whether a patient is a scheduled or an unscheduled case, all patients booked for an MRI under GA must have a consent and a pre-scan questionnaire complete prior to their arrival in Radiology.

The pre-scan questionnaire is located at:

http://chw.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/ou/medical_imaging/resources/forms/MRI_pre-scan_questionnaire.pdf

Nursing staff are responsible for having the questionnaire and consent completed by the patient/parent/carer.

Fasting Times

- It is imperative that all patients having an MRI under GA are adequately fasted. The standard fasting times are:
 - 6 hours for solids and milk
 - 4 hours for breast milk
 - 2 hours for clear fluids
- Fasting times will be given for the patient on the day or evening before by the anaesthetic registrar.
- Fasting times are to be documented on the front of the patient's medication chart by Anaesthetist.
- If fasting times have not been provided or documented, the anaesthetic registrar should be paged on #6008.

Scheduled Patients

Scheduled patients will be given specific fasting times based on their scheduled starting time.

Non Scheduled Patients

The first unscheduled patient will generally be fasted for 10:30am in case there is a cancellation on the elective list.

Calling for the Patient

Scheduled Patients

- The *Radiology nurse* allocated to the list will call all scheduled patients.
- Prior to leaving the ward, ensure:
 - **consent and pre-scan questionnaire is completed** to prevent delays in radiology.
 - all notes accompany the patient and the pre- op check list is completed.
 - confirmation with the patient and/or parent/carer, the patients fasting status. If the patient is identified as inadequately fasted, contact the Anaesthetist allocated to the list on extension 52882.

Note:

If the forms are not completed, the patient may be sent back to the unit and the scan delayed until these forms are completed.

If major delays occur or the patient is not adequately fasted, the patient may be cancelled.

Non Scheduled

- The *Anaesthetic nurse* allocated to the list will call all non scheduled patients. A porter will be sent from theatres to collect the patient.
- Prior to leaving the ward, ensure:
 - **consent and pre-scan questionnaire is completed** to prevent delays or cancellation of the case.
 - all notes accompany the patient and the pre- op check list is completed.
 - confirmation with the patient and/or parent/carer, the patients fasting status. If the patient is identified as inadequately fasted, contact the anaesthetist allocated to the list on extension 52882 or page the Anaesthetist co-ordinating the emergency list on pager 6777.
- If there are delays or problems with preparing the patient for transfer, contact the Anaesthetist as soon as possible on either extension 52882 or page the Anaesthetist co-ordinating the emergency list on pager 6777.

Note:

If the forms are not completed **or** there are delays with the patient arriving to the radiology department, the patient may be cancelled and sent back to the ward/unit. Negotiation with the Anaesthetist allocated to the list must occur and the scan rebooked.

Medical Imaging Department Delays

Delays may occur in the Medical Imaging Department. This may often result in patients being fasted for longer periods of time.

If there are concerns about a patient's wellbeing or if the patient has been fasting for greater than 6 hours for clear fluids, contact the Anaesthetist allocated to the scheduled list (ext 52882) or the Anaesthetist allocated to the Emergency list (page 6777) to review the fasting orders.

Cancellations

- If the MRI under GA is cancelled (both scheduled and unscheduled cases), the Anaesthetist allocated to the MRI or the Anaesthetist co-ordinating the emergency list will notify the Team Leader on the ward at time of call. If unsure, contact the Anaesthetist co-ordinating the emergency list on pager 6777 or the Operational Nurse Manager pager 6182. The Operational Nurse Manager must be notified of all cancellations.

Patients should remain fasted until direct confirmation from the Anaesthetist of cancellation.

- Following this, it is the responsibility of the ward to notify the patient's medical/surgical team and the patient/family.

- All *elective cases* will be rescheduled by the Radiology Department.
- *Unscheduled cases* will either be re-allocated to the following day or re-booked by the patient's team.

Patients awaiting an MRI under GA: Who to contact

If you have any questions regarding patients awaiting an MRI under GA, all calls should be directed to:

For patient allocated to the Scheduled List

- Staff to contact the anaesthetist allocated to MRI list – ext 52882

For all patients allocated on the Non Scheduled/ Emergency List

- All other times during the week
- Staff to contact the anaesthetist co-ordinating the emergency list – page 6777

For patients expecting to have an MRI on a Weekend, Public Holiday or After Hours

- After Hours 1730 - 2330
- Staff to contact the In-Charge Nurse – pager 6182 or ext 52333

Post Anaesthetic Discharge Requirements

Length of Stay

- A one hour recovery period is acceptable in the majority of cases.
- 90 minutes may be needed if the patient is intubated.
- Patient must meet the required discharge criteria.

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