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| Pathway | |
| | Open or Upright MRI Scanner |
| Commissioned | |
| | <p>Open MRI will only be funded in the following situations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Claustrophobia where an appropriate sedative has not been effective. 2. Patients whose habitus prevents them from using a conventional MRI scanner consistent with radiology departmental guidelines. |
| | <p>Upright MRI will only be funded when maintaining a supine position leads to one of the following consequences:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Severe pain which cannot be ameliorated by appropriate analgesia and is relieved by standing. 2. Significant desaturation and/or severe breathlessness due to a cardiorespiratory condition(s). |
| Notes | |
| | Evidence will be required to support the application for prior approval. |
| Rationale | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MRI is a widely used diagnostic imaging technology and is particularly useful in detecting soft tissue damage and disease. The patient undergoing imaging is placed in a strong magnetic field delivering radiofrequency pulses and the scanner processes the electromagnetic signals emitted from the region being examined. ▪ The standard closed, high-field MRI is cylindrical and requires the patient to be supine and stationary for an extended period of time. ▪ Open MRI scanners are better tolerated by patients with claustrophobia and are more accessible and comfortable for patients whose habitus precludes the use of a closed MRI. ▪ However open MRI scanners produce a lower magnetic field strength which reduces the quality of the image and increases the duration of the examination. ▪ An upright MRI is a type of vertical open MRI which allows the patient to remain standing or to adopt other positions which are not possible with a closed MRI. ▪ The upright MRI has the lowest field strength of all three and the resultant extended examination may cause problems if the patient is unable to hold their position for the required length of time. |
| Cohort | |
| | Children and Adults. |
| Equality | |
| | Compliant with the Equality Act 2010. |
| Status | |
| | RED as defined in the Prior Approval Scheme Policy. |
| OPCS codes | |

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| Magnetic resonance imaging of whole body | U01.2 |
| Magnetic resonance imaging of head | U05.2 |
| Magnetic resonance imaging of spine | U05.5 |
| Magnetic resonance imaging of chest | U07.2 |
| Magnetic resonance imaging of abdomen | U08.5 |
| Magnetic resonance imaging of pelvis | U09.3 |
| Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging | U10.3 |
| Magnetic resonance angiography | U11.7 |
| Magnetic resonance imaging of bone | U13.3 |
| Magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography | U16.2 |
| Magnetic resonance imaging NEC | U21.1 |
| Magnetic resonance imaging of kidneys | U37.1 |
| With condition ICD10 code: | |
| Obesity | E66.9 |
| Claustrophobia | F40.240 |
| Orthopnoea | R06.01 |

Version History

Policy now includes criteria for the funding of an Upright MRI.

Authorised

April 2019

Review

April 2024

Earlier if new evidence published by NICE or other authoritative body.

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|---|-------|
| Magnetic resonance imaging of whole body | U01.2 |
| Magnetic resonance imaging of head | U05.2 |
| Magnetic resonance imaging of spine | U05.5 |
| Magnetic resonance imaging of chest | U07.2 |
| Magnetic resonance imaging of abdomen | U08.5 |
| Magnetic resonance imaging of pelvis | U09.3 |
| Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging | U10.3 |
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| Magnetic resonance imaging of bone | U13.3 |
| Magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography | U16.2 |

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|---|-------|
| Magnetic resonance imaging NEC | U21.1 |
| Magnetic resonance imaging of kidneys | U37.1 |
| With conditions code: | |
| Extreme obesity with alveolar hypoventilation | E662 |
| Severe obesity | E669 |
| Claustrophobia | F402 |
| Dyspnoea | R06.0 |