**HAVING AN MRI SCAN**

**PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR MRI NON CONTRAST**

**What is an MRI Scan?**

A Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan is a specialised type scan which uses very strong magnets and radio waves instead of x-rays to take very detailed images of the tissues inside your body such as spinal cord, blood vessels, internal organs and bones.

**How do I prepare for the MRI Scan?**

You will need to **arrive 15 minutes** before your appointment time when you may need to change into a gown, remove all metal objects from your body, and have your safety questionnaire checked.

**What happens during the MRI Scan?**

You will lie on a bed that is moved into the tube shaped scanner, some scans require a piece of equipment, called a coil, to be placed on or around the part of your body being scanned. Depending on what is being scanned, you will go in either head or feet first – the area you are having scanned will need to be in the centre of the tube. Since the magnet makes a lot of loud noise, you will need to wear headphones which will help mask it. You will hear the radiographer speak to you through the headphones, and if you like, we can play you your choice of music. You will be given a buzzer which you can squeeze to alert the radiographer you wish to speak to them. They can then talk to you once they pause the scan.

**What happens after the MRI Scan?**

The Radiographer who performs the scan will ensure all the images have been taken and are prepared for review by the Radiologist who will send a report to your referring consultant. The time it takes for this to happen varies but is usually done in less than a week. There are no side effects to having the scan and it is safe to drive and return to work right away.

**Before having the MRI Scan**

Females between the ages of 12-55 years will need to confirm that they are not pregnant before proceeding with the scan.

Unfortunately there are no childcare facilities at the hospital and children cannot come into the scanning room with you.

**If you have ever had a brain shunt, brain coil, cochlear implant, cardiac valve replacement, coronary or vascular stent or a joint replacement, please ensure you bring the ID card for the device to your appointment, and if possible, the details of the hospital where you had it inserted. If you have ever had a pacemaker or any other cardiac device inserted, please contact the Imaging Department before attending your appointment**.

If you have any concerns, or would like to discuss the scan and procedure with a Radiographer, please do not hesitate to contact the imaging department on **0208 347 3866** or **diagnostics@highgatehospital.co.uk**