

MRI Central Intake

As of October 29, 2018, all outpatient MRI requisitions for Lower Mainland Medical Imaging sites across Fraser Health, Vancouver Coastal Health and Providence Health Care must be directed to the **MRI Central Intake fax number: 1-866-588-6955**.

Faxing directly to the MRI booking sites will delay the process.

In addition to the regional MRI requisition form, referrals for lumbar spine, knee and hip must include the regional appropriateness checklist. Both forms are available at <http://www.vch.ca/MRI-Central-Intake>.

Resources

Appropriateness criteria are consistent with the Choosing Wisely Canada recommendations. For more information, visit <https://choosingwiselycanada.org>

For appropriateness guidance from a radiologist, call the Rapid Access to Consultative Expertise (RACE) line: 1-604-696-2131 or visit <http://www.raceconnect.ca/>

Information for referring clinicians on MRI appropriateness can be found at: <http://www.vch.ca/MRI-Central-Intake> and <https://pathwaysbc.ca>

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Appropriateness Criteria for MRI Knee and Hip

Information for Referring Clinicians

Lower Mainland Medical Imaging sites across Fraser Health, Vancouver Coastal Health and Providence Health Care have adopted appropriateness criteria for MRI knee and hip exams. These criteria are consistent with the Choosing Wisely Canada recommendations.

How will appropriateness criteria be implemented?

An appropriateness checklist has been developed to accompany adult MRI knee and hip referrals. The checklist must be completed and attached to the MRI requisition.

Why introduce appropriateness criteria?

The appropriateness criteria and checklist provide decision support to referring clinicians and support our commitment to quality improvement.

What does this mean for referring clinicians?

- Referring clinicians must complete and attach a knee and hip checklist to their MRI requisition for patients 40 years of age and older.
- The requisition and checklist must be forwarded to the MRI Central Intake office together.
- The requisition will only be forwarded to an MRI booking site if one or more of the appropriateness criteria are met.

What are the appropriateness criteria for MRI knee and hip?

One or more of the following must apply to be eligible for MRI knee or hip:

- ✓ MRI was recommended on a previous imaging report
- ✓ Previous knee or hip surgery
- ✓ Suspected infection
- ✓ Suspected tumour
- ✓ Osteonecrosis
- ✓ Fixed locked knee
- ✓ Patient has had a weight-bearing x-ray within the past 6 months and referring clinician has confirmed mild or no evidence of osteoarthritis in the knee or hip

What should I discuss with my patients if they don't meet the appropriateness criteria?

- Having an X-ray can inform the appropriate investigation pathway.
- In the absence of red flag appropriateness criteria, there is no evidence for the utility of advanced imaging for patients with significant OA.
- Discuss treatment and pain management options.
- Provide them with the "MRI for Knee and Hip – when is it appropriate?" patient handout.
Continue to monitor your patient and if their symptoms don't resolve, consider consulting orthopedic and rheumatology specialists as there may be other reasons for your patient's pain.