

MRI Referral Decision Support Checklist – Low Back Pain in an Adult

Medical Imaging

IMPORTANT

Please include this checklist with all MRI referrals for adult patients who suffer from low back pain when sending referrals to HGH’s Central Booking. This information is required to process your request and avoid delays in scheduling an appointment.

PATIENT INFORMATION

Last name			First name, initial
Date of birth			Health card number
Day	Month	Year	

DECISION SUPPORT CHECKLIST

Studies have shown that a MRI for low back pain is not a useful test (does not change the management of the condition or outcomes for patients) unless there are specific symptoms or signs that suggest a there is serious cause for the pain.

To proceed with a referral for an MRI exam of the lumbar spine in an adult, and to help us triage your request, please check all those boxes that apply to your patient’s condition.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suspected or known cancer | <input type="checkbox"/> Severe or progressive neurologic deficits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suspected or known infection | <input type="checkbox"/> Inflammatory process |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suspected or known fracture | <input type="checkbox"/> Ankylosing spondylitis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radicular syndrome | <input type="checkbox"/> Cauda equina syndrome |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Previous lumbar spine surgery
Date and location: _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scheduled lumbar spine surgery
Date and location: _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MRI recommended on a previous imaging report (Please include the report with your referral.) | |

Note: An X-ray is typically recommended as an initial imaging study for patients who suffer from chronic uncomplicated low back pain, have experienced low velocity trauma, have osteoporosis, are chronic steroid users, or who are older individuals. MRIs and CTs are not typically indicated for patients with back dominant pain (pain above the gluteal fold and below the T12 rib).



Form

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