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
Day | Month | Year | Health card number

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.

- [ ] Suspected or known cancer
- [ ] Severe or progressive neurologic deficits
- [ ] Suspected or known infection
- [ ] Inflammatory process
- [ ] Suspected or known fracture
- [ ] Ankylosing spondylitis
- [ ] Radicular syndrome
- [ ] Cauda equina syndrome
- [ ] Previous lumbar spine surgery
  Date and location: 
- [ ] Scheduled lumbar spine surgery
  Date and location: 
- [ ] 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).
| MRI Referral Decision Support Checklist – Low Back Pain in an Adult | Medical Imaging |