

Paediatric

MRI under oral sedation (MRIOS)

Information for patients, relatives and carers

Introduction

This leaflet tells you more about MRI scans. Please feel free to email the coordinator if you have any questions you have about the information below.

What is a MRI scan?

MRI stands for magnetic resonance imaging. This technique uses magnetism and radiofrequency waves to collect information about the part of the body being examined. The radio waves are bounced back to the scanner by your body and a computer within the scanner uses this information to produce images.

Why does my child need an MRI?

Your doctor has recommended that your child have an MRI. The reason for this will depend upon your particular condition and will have been discussed with you in clinic. If you're not sure why you've been recommended for an MRI then please ask your consultant to explain this.

Is there anything I need to do before my child's MRI?

When you're booking or confirming your child's appointment, please tell us if your child has:

- a heart pacemaker
- aneurysm clips
- had brain or spinal surgery in the past
- had any surgery involving metal implants, such as hip replacements
- a previous history of metal fragments in your eyes

What are the risks and benefits of having an MRI?

The benefit of an MRI is that it is a safe and relatively quick procedure, which gives your doctors detailed information about the area being examined. There are no known risks or side effects associated with this test. However, you must tell us if any of the bullet points listed above apply to your child, as this could affect their MRI. The radiographer performing the scan will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Are there any alternatives to this test?

An MRI will only have been requested by your doctor if they feel that this is the best way to find out more information about your child's condition.

Other tests such as ultrasound and CT scanning can also give information, but MRI often gives a better quality of information than other methods.

How to get to the hospital

Your admission will take place at St Mary's Hospital, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Building (QEQM) – 6th Floor, Children's Clinics, South Wharf Road, London, W2 1PE. Please arrive at 09:00 in the morning.

Due to high demand for the MRIOS scan, if you are unable to attend for any reason, please call the Paediatric MRI General Anaesthetic (MRIGA) coordinator on 07881 851 536 or email Imperial.paediatricmriga@nhs.net beforehand to cancel and rebook if necessary.

If your child has had surgery or been unwell in the two weeks before the MRIOS appointment, we will need to be informed as this may have to be rescheduled.

Before your child's appointment

We aim to provide our patients with an appointment date within a week of receiving the referral form from your consultant. Due to Covid-19 guidance, one parent or guardian will be allowed to accompany your child to the appointment.

The morning of your child's appointment

Please bring a copy of your appointment letter/email.

- **Fasting: Please do not give your child solid food, milk or other liquids after 2am the night before their MRI.** Please do not give them breakfast or drinks on the morning of their MRI. They can have sips of plain water until 9:00am.
- Please avoid dressing your child in clothes that contain metal, e.g. metal fastenings/poppers.
- If your child has piercings, they will need to please be removed beforehand.

During your child's appointment

Please note that we are a teaching hospital, so medical students may be present for some appointments. If you are not OK with this, please let the clinical team know.

When you arrive, please check in with the Children's Clinics receptionist. You may be asked to complete a safety questionnaire. You will be asked to confirm your name, date of birth and address. You will then remain in the bay on the ward until they are ready for their scan. The

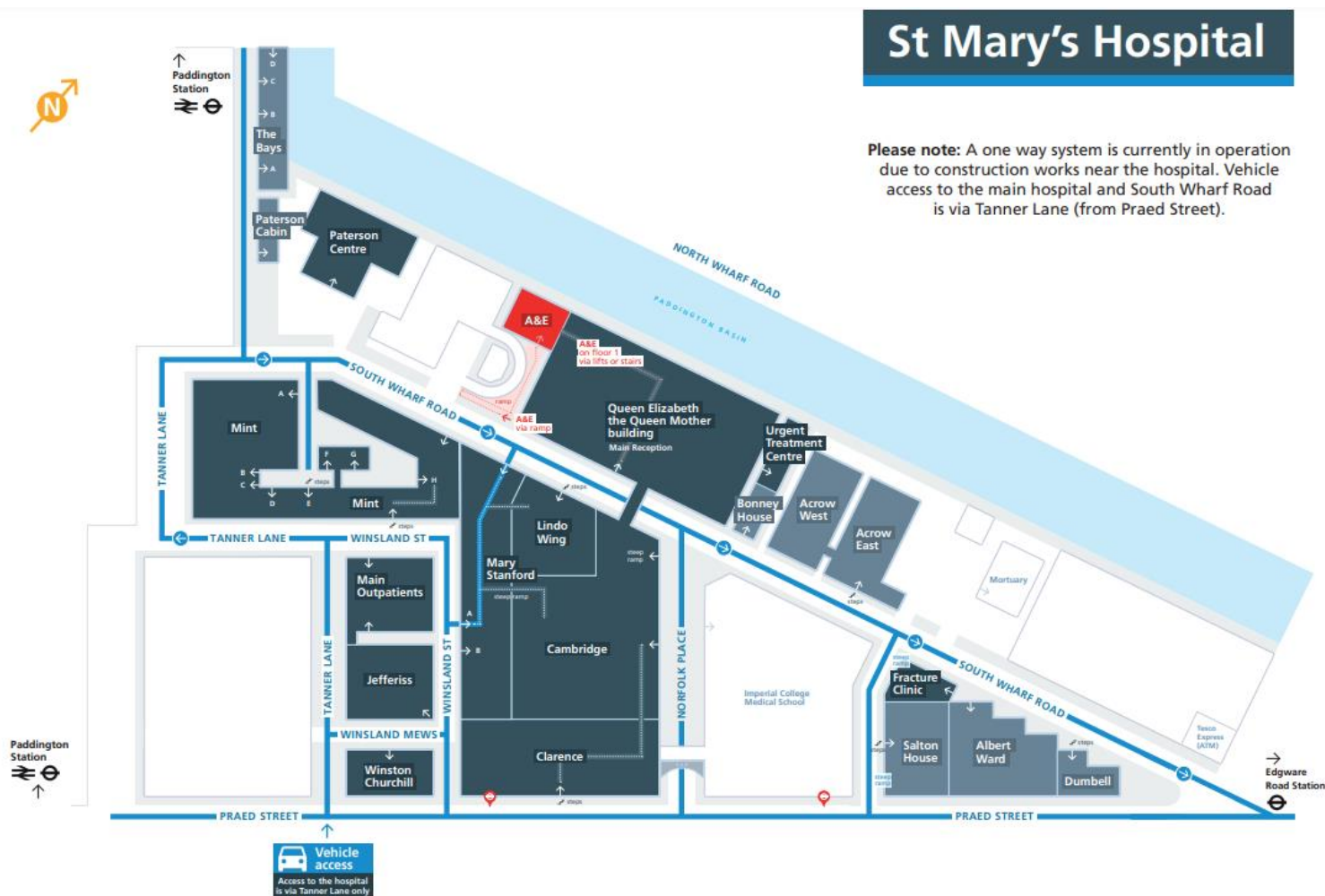
radiographer performing the scan will carefully position your child in a certain way, for example with their arms up, in order to get the best imaging for review.

Once your child has recovered, they can be discharged after observation. This is usually around lunchtime. You can request a snack box on the day, please inform the nursing team if your child would like one.

After your child's appointment

The results of all examinations are made available to the referring team as soon as the consultant neuroradiologist has reviewed the MRI image and issued a report. The report will be sent to your referring clinician. You should be told the result of the MRI within two weeks by your consultant.

Please note that parking at the hospital is limited and if you do arrive by car, allow sufficient time



to park and arrive at your appointment on time. There is limited parking on South Wharf Road and ACPOA Paddington Station car park, W2 6AA is an eight-minute walk.

How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3312 7777** (10.00 – 16.00, Monday to Friday). You can also email PALS at imperial.pals@nhs.net The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to complain by contacting our complaints department:

Complaints department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street
London W2 1NY

Email: ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net

Telephone: **020 3312 1337 / 1349**

Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or in alternative languages. Please email the communications team:

imperial.communications@nhs.net

Wi-fi

Wi-fi is available at our Trust. For more information visit our website: www.imperial.nhs.uk

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