

Cobalt Health Referrers Scope of Practice for MRI, PET, CBCT, CT, USS & X-ray Examination Requests

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DOCUMENT DETAILS

Version	Revision	Date	Approved By
1.0	Original document	August 2010	CHoD Committee
2.0	Reviewed and updated	March 2013	CHoD Committee
3.0	Reviewed and updated	August 2013	CHoD Committee
4.0	Reviewed and updated to new format	March 2015	CHoD Committee
4.1	Reviewed with minor changes	March 2017	CHoD Committee
4.2	Reviewed and updated to include CBCT	July 2018	CHoD Committee

Referrers Scope of Practice for MRI, PET, CBCT, CT, USS & X-ray Examination Requests

Any referrer able to refer to Cobalt Imaging Centre must have been entitled to do so and have an agreed scope of practice. Please refer to the Referral Vetting Process Document for further information. That document also describes the process required for new referrers.

Radiologists

- Radiologists who practice at Cobalt Imaging Centre and those who procure mobile MRI services from Cobalt are able to refer any patient for MRI, CT, USS or x-ray examinations.
- Radiologists are able to refuse any referral received by Cobalt Imaging Centre deemed inappropriate, can suggest an alternative diagnostic imaging modality where appropriate, and will discuss this with the referrer.
- Radiologists are able to refuse any referrals from entitled referrers who attempt to refer outside of their expertise and scope of practice.

Consultant Clinicians

Inclusion Criteria:

- All types of examinations may be requested by the clinician in their area of specialist expertise. Their specialty must be clearly indicated on the referral.

Exclusion Criteria: NONE

General Practitioners

Inclusion Criteria:

- All types of examinations in any body area may be requested by a general practitioner.
- MRA may be requested. The referral must be justified by a Cobalt Health Radiologist as high dose contrast enhanced imaging may be required.

Exclusion Criteria: NONE

Dentists and Orthodontists

Inclusion Criteria:

- Only MRI examinations of the face, mandible, temporo-mandibular joints and sinuses can be requested.
- MRI head (excluding brain for neuro) for specific conditions may be requested and the referral must be justified by a Cobalt Radiologist.
- Plain film of skull, mandible and facial bones.

Exclusion Criteria:-

- All PET, CBCT, CT & USS examinations.
- Plain film radiography of all other areas.
- MRI – All other body areas not indicated above.

Non-Medical Practitioners - Chiropractors, Osteopaths, Physiotherapists and Podiatrists, consultant nurse and extended scope practitioners (ESP):-

Inclusion Criteria

- Only musculoskeletal MRI, musculoskeletal CBCT, USS or plain film examinations can be requested by the referrer in their area of specialist expertise. e.g. Podiatrists can refer for foot and ankle imaging only. Chiropractic referral is detailed in Cobalt IR(ME)R procedure 12_10 Chiropractor.
- CT examinations may be requested if an agreement is in place for the suitably trained non-medical practitioner to refer specified body areas, under the guidance of their medical practitioner/Director.

Exclusion Criteria:

- All PET/CT
- MRI, CBCT, USS and plain film radiography - All body areas not included in the above.

NB New referrers will be asked to submit details of their qualifications, practice and specialties prior to being listed as an accepted referrer.

Other Non-Medical Practitioners - Sports Massage Therapists, McTimoney Chiropractors with appropriate level of professional qualification and holding registration with a relevant recognised body only

Inclusion Criteria:

- Only musculoskeletal MRI examinations can be requested by the referrer in their area of specialist expertise.

Exclusion Criteria:

- All PET, CBCT, CT, USS & X ray examinations.
- MRI – All other body areas not included in the specific area of expertise.