



Cobalt

Medical Charity

Diagnosis • Research • Education

Registered Charity No: 1090790

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
4.3	Reviewed and updated to expand referrers scope of practice	December 2021	

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. The process for accepting referrals from new referrers can also be found in the Referral Vetting Process document.

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 imaging 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 for self-pay patients.
- Patients referred via a NHS contract, for example the Increasing Capacity Framework agreement (ICS) referral must be in accordance with the referral criteria outlined with the contracts. These contracts typically limit the type of imaging and body areas which may be requested. Body areas covered by the contract should be checked prior to acceptance.

Exclusion Criteria: NONE Body areas and/or clinical indications excluded within NHS contracts.

Dentists and Orthodontists

Inclusion Criteria:

- Only MRI examinations of the face, mandible, temporomandibular joints and sinuses can be requested. CT may be a more appropriate examination for sinuses which a radiologist must justify.
- 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

Inclusion Criteria

- Musculoskeletal MRI, USS or plain film examinations can be requested in the referrers area of specialist expertise. This is typically limited to the following body areas:
 - C-Spine
 - T-Spine
 - L-Spine
 - Shoulder
 - Chest wall
 - Elbow
 - Wrist
 - Pelvis/Hips
 - Knee
 - Ankle

Referrals outside of these body areas may be accepted on a case by case basis, after assessment and justification by a consultant radiologist if the request is deemed to fall within the individual practitioner's area of expertise and appropriate clinical history, indications and question to be answered are provided in the referral.

Exclusion Criteria:

- All PET/CT, CT and CBCT.
- Non-musculoskeletal MRI, USS and plain film radiography.

NB New referrers will be asked to submit details of their qualifications, practice and specialties prior to being listed as an accepted referrer. Requests for examinations using non-ionising radiation will also require proof of IR(ME)R training.

Non-Medical Practitioners - Osteopaths

Inclusion Criteria

- Musculoskeletal MRI, USS or plain film examinations can be requested in the referrers area of specialist expertise. This is typically limited to the following body areas:
 - C-Spine
 - T-Spine
 - L-Spine
 - Shoulder
 - Chest wall
 - Elbow
 - Wrist
 - Pelvis/Hips
 - Knee
 - Ankle

Referrals outside of these body areas may be accepted on a case by case basis, after assessment and justification by a consultant radiologist if the request is deemed to fall within the individual practitioner's area of expertise and appropriate clinical history, indications and question to be answered are provided in the referral.

Exclusion Criteria:

- All PET/CT, CT and CBCT
- Non-musculoskeletal MRI, USS and plain film radiography.

NB New referrers will be asked to submit details of their qualifications, practice and specialties prior to being listed as an accepted referrer. Requests for examinations using non-ionising radiation will also require proof of IR(ME)R training.

Non-Medical Practitioners – Physiotherapists/extended scope practitioners/consultant nurses.

Inclusion Criteria

- Musculoskeletal MRI, USS or plain film examinations can be requested in the referrers area of specialist expertise. This typically includes all regions of the axial and appendicular skeleton.

Some individuals have a specific expertise in the treatment of migraine. In these cases referrals for brain imaging should be justified by a radiologist.

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- 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
- Non-musculoskeletal MRI, USS and plain film radiography (excluding requests for MRI Brachial Plexus imaging).

NB New referrers will be asked to submit details of their qualifications, practice and specialties prior to being listed as an accepted referrer. Requests for examinations using non-ionising radiation will also require proof of IR(ME)R training.

Non-Medical Practitioners – Podiatrists/Chiropodists

Inclusion Criteria

- Musculoskeletal MRI, USS or plain film examinations of the lower limb only.

Exclusion Criteria:

- All PET/CT, CT and CBCT
- MRI, USS and plain film radiography of all other body regions.

NB New referrers will be asked to submit details of their qualifications, practice and specialties prior to being listed as an accepted referrer. Requests for examinations using non-ionising radiation will also require proof of IR(ME)R training.

Other Non-Medical Practitioners - Sports Massage Therapists, McTimoney Chiropractors

NB These non-medical practitioners must hold an appropriate level of professional qualifications and hold registration with a relevant recognized body.

Inclusion Criteria:

- Only musculoskeletal MRI examinations may be requested in the referrers are 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.

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