

MRI Scheduling Guidelines

888.402.LVHN (5846)

Fax: 484.884.1909

Per ICD-10 requirements, please include as much specificity as possible when documenting the reason for the exam, including signs and symptoms.

CPT CODE	HEAD	Signs / Symptoms / Reason for Study
70551	Brain w/o Contrast	Alzheimer's disease, Confusion, Dementia, Headaches, Hydrocephalus, Mental status change, Memory loss, or Migraines
70553	Brain w/ & w/o Contrast	Anosmia, Arteriovenous malformation (AVM), Cancer history (other than basal cell), Demyelinating disease*, Diplopia, Facial pain, Lupus, Lyme disease, Ptosis, Seizures, Trigeminal neuralgia, Tumor, Mass, Cancer, Metastasis, or Vascular lesions
70553 70549 70544	Brain for Stroke Evaluation	CVA, Dissection, Stroke, TIA, or VBI
70553	Internal Auditory Canals w/ & w/o Contrast	Acoustic neuroma, Bell's palsy, Neurofibromatosis type 2, Sensory neural hearing loss, Tinnitus, or Vestibular neuroma
70544	MRA Head w/o Contrast	Aneurysm (evaluate or rule out) <i>[MRI Brain w/o contrast should also be ordered if not done in prior 3 months for full evaluation.]</i>
70546	MRA Head w/ & w/o Contrast	Aneurysm (evaluate post coiling procedure) or Aneurysm (s/p clip deployment)
70549	MRA Neck w/ & w/o Contrast	Dissection, Stenosis, or Subclavian steal
70545	MRV Head w/ Contrast	Venous thrombosis
70544	MRV Head w/o Contrast	Venous thrombosis for pregnant or renally impaired patient
70543	Orbits w/& w/o Contrast	Exophthalmos, Grave's disease, Neurofibromatosis type 1, Nystagmus, Proptosis, Pseudotumor, Tumor, Mass, Cancer, or Metastasis <i>[Both brain w/ & w/o and orbits w/ & w/o required for complete evaluation.]</i>
70553	Pituitary w/ & w/o Contrast	Abnormal hormone levels, Acromegaly, Adenoma, Amenorrhea, Cushing's syndrome, or Galactorrhea
70336	TMJ w/o Contrast	Clicking, Dislocation, or Pain (Function Study)
70336	TMJ w/ & w/o Contrast	Infection or Pathology (Non-Function)

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CPT CODE	SPINE	Signs / Symptoms / Reason for Study
72141	Cervical Spine w/o Contrast	Arm pain/weakness, Chiari malformation, Degenerative disc disease, Disc herniation, Fusion (post-surgery), Neck pain, Radiculopathy, or Shoulder pain/weakness
72156	Cervical Spine w/ & w/o Contrast	Discitis, Neurofibromatosis , Multiple sclerosis*, Myelopathy*, Osteomyelitis, Syrinx (if follow up*), Tumor, Mass, Cancer, Metastasis, Vascular lesion, or AVM [*Physician's choice for use of contrast.]
72148	Lumbar Spine w/o Contrast	Back pain, Compression fracture, Degenerative disc disease, Disc herniation, Radiculopathy, Sciatica, Spondylolisthesis, Stenosis, Trauma or Vertebroplasty (with malignancy history)
72158	Lumbar Spine w/ & w/o Contrast	Compression fracture (malignancy or met extension to tissue), Discitis, Osteomyelitis, Prior lumbar spine surgery, Tumor, Mass, Cancer, or Metastasis
72195	Sacrum w/o Contrast	Fracture, Pain, Sciatica, Spondylolisthesis, Spondylolysis, or Trauma
72197	Sacrum w/ & w/o Contrast	Tumor, Mass, Cancer, or Metastasis
72146	Thoracic Spine w/o Contrast	Back pain, Compression fracture (w/o malignancy or met history), Degenerative disc disease, Disc herniation, Radiculopathy, Trauma, or Vertebroplasty planning (w/o malignancy history)
72157	Thoracic Spine w/ & w/o Contrast	AVM, Compression fracture (malignancy or met extension to tissue), Discitis, Multiple sclerosis*, Myelopathy*, Osteomyelitis, Syrinx (if follow up*), Vascular lesions, or Vertebroplasty planning (w/ malignancy history) [*Physician's choice for use of contrast]
CPT CODE	BODY	Signs / Symptoms / Reason for Study
74181	Abdomen w/o Contrast	Adrenal glands, or MRCP (biliary and pancreatic bile ducts)
74183	Abdomen w/ & w/o Contrast	All other histories and abdominal organs
	Aorta, Abdominal	<i>[Please refer to MRA section of Ordering Guide.]</i>
71552	Aorta, Thoracic w/ & w/o Contrast	Aneurysm, or Dissection <i>[MRI Chest w/ and w/o contrast is study of choice. Not evaluated using MRA.]</i>
70543	Brachial Plexus for Head or Neck CA w/ & w/o Contrast	Cancer, Mass, Metastasis, or Tumor <i>[Performed unilaterally for detail. Indicate side.]</i>
73220	Brachial Plexus for Ortho w/ & w/o Contrast	Brachial plexus injury, Nerve avulsion, Mass, or Tumor <i>[Performed unilaterally for detail. Indicate side.]</i>

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CPT CODE	BODY	Signs / Symptoms / Reason for Study
71552	Brachial Plexus for Lung CA w/ & w/o Contrast	Cancer, Mass, Metastasis, or Tumor <i>[Performed unilaterally for detail. Indicate side.]</i>
71550	Chest w/o Contrast	Evaluation of SC Joint
71552	Chest w/ & w/o Contrast	Cancer, Mass, Metastasis, or Tumor <i>[Not the imaging choice for lung lesions.]</i>
74183 72197	Enterography w/ & w/o Contrast	Crohn's disease, or Inflammatory bowel disease <i>[CT should be done first. Cannot assess for bowel obstruction.]</i>
72197 (pelvis) 73723 (hip)	Lumbar Plexus w/ & w/o Contrast	Lumbar plexus injury, Nerve avulsion, Tumor, Mass, Cancer, or Metastasis
70543	Neck, Soft Tissue w/ & w/o Contrast	Infection, Pain, Parotid (evaluate), Tumor, Mass, Cancer, Metastasis, or Vocal cord paralysis
72195	Pelvis w/o Contrast	Bone metastasis, Fracture, Muscle tear, or Tendon tear
72197	Pelvis w/ & w/o Contrast	Abscess, Adenomyosis, Cancer, Fibroid evaluation, Fibroid (pre-embolization), Fibroid (post-embolization), Mass, Metastasis, Osteomyelitis, Rectal tumor staging, Septic arthritis, Tumor, or Urethral diverticulum
72197	Prostate w/ & w/o Contrast	Elevated PSA, Known prostate cancer, Post-Op prostatectomy (to evaluate reoccurrence), or Prostate bed evaluation
72195	Sacroiliac Joints w/o Contrast	Stress fracture, Pain, or Trauma
72197	Sacroiliac Joints w/ & w/o Contrast	Ankylosing spondylitis, Inflammation, or Sacroilitis
74183 72197	Urogram	Microscopic hematuria

CPT CODE	MRA	Signs / Symptoms / Reason for Study
74185	MRA Abdomen w/ & w/o Contrast	Abdominal aortic aneurysm, Abdominal pain, Back pain, Hepatic and splenic arteries pre-transplant, Hypertension, or Renal artery stenosis
74185 73725	MRA Abdominal Aorta Runoff w/ & w/o Contrast	Bypass graft evaluation, Claudication, or Peripheral vascular disease <i>[These studies are to follow arterial flow from above renal arteries through the legs to the foot or feet. If asked, we can limit coverage to a specific area. Both studies needed to evaluate.]</i>
71555	MRA Chest w/ Contrast	Stenosis, Arch, Subclavian arteries
73225	MRA Upper Extremity w/ & w/o Contrast	Arteries of hand/arm (indicate arteries of interest), Raynaud's disease, or Stenosis

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CPT CODE	MRA	Signs / Symptoms / Reason for Study
72198	MRA Pelvis w/ & w/o Contrast	Hysterectomy (pre-surgery), Kidney transplant (pre-surgery), Kidney transplant (post-surgery), or May-Thurner syndrome
70544	MRA Head w/o Contrast	Aneurysm (evaluate or rule out) [MRI of brain without contrast should be added if not done in prior 3 months for full evaluation.]
70545	MRA Head w/ Contrast	Aneurysm (evaluate post-coil procedure), or Aneurysm (s/p clip deployment)
73725	MRA Lower Extremity w/ & w/o Contrast	Arteries of lower extremity (indicate arteries of interest), Claudication, Diabetic neuropathy, Evaluation of graft, Gangrene, or Non-healing ulcer
70549	MRA Neck w/ & w/o Contrast	Dissection, Stenosis, or Subclavian steal
70546	MRV Head w/ & w/o Contrast	Venous thrombosis
70544	MRV Head w/o Contrast	Venous thrombosis (pregnant or renally impaired patient)
73725	MRV Lower Extremity w/ & w/o Contrast	Arteriovenous malformation (AVM), or Venous thrombosis
73225	MRV Upper Extremity w/ & w/o Contrast	Arteriovenous malformation (AVM), or Venous thrombosis
CPT CODE	MUSCULOSKELETAL	Signs / Symptoms / Reason for Study
73721	MRI Lower Extremity Joint w/o Contrast	Avascular necrosis (AVN), Cartilage tear, Epicondylitis, Fracture, Internal derangement, Labral tear, Meniscal tear, Muscle tear, OA, Osteochondritis dissecans (OCD), Pain, Plantar fasciitis, or Tenosynovitis [Hip, Knee, Ankle]
73718	MRI Lower Extremity Non-Joint w/o Contrast	Avascular necrosis (AVN), Cartilage tear, Epicondylitis, Fracture, Osteochondritis dissecans (OCD), Pain, Tendon tear, Muscle tear, or Stress fracture [Thigh, Lower leg, Foot, Toe]
73723	MRI Lower Extremity Joint w/ & w/o Contrast	Abscess, Gout, Lupus history, Arthritis (rheumatoid), Cellulitis, Inflammatory arthritis, Mass, Osteomyelitis, Septic arthritis, Synovitis, Tumor, Cancer, Metastasis, or Ulcer [Hip, Knee, Ankle]
73720	MRI Lower Extremity Non-Joint w/ & w/o Contrast	Abscess, Cellulitis, Lupus history, Morton's neuroma, Myositis, Osteomyelitis, Tumor, Mass, Cancer, Metastasis, or Ulcer [Thigh, Lower leg, Foot, Toe]
73221	MRI Upper Extremity Joint w/o Contrast	Avascular necrosis (AVN), Epicondylitis, Fracture, Labral tear, Pain, Osteochondritis dissecans (OCD), OA, Rotator cuff tear, Stress fracture, Swelling, Tenosynovitis, or Trauma [Clavicle - AC Joint, Shoulder, Elbow, Wrist]

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CPT CODE	MUSCULOSKELETAL	Signs / Symptoms / Reason for Study
73218	MRI Upper Extremity Non-Joint w/o Contrast	Avascular necrosis (AVN), Epicondylitis, Fracture, Muscle tear, Pain, Osteochondritis dissecans (OCD), Stress fracture, Swelling, Tendon tear, Tenosynovitis, or Trauma <i>[Upper arm, Forearm, Hand, Finger]</i>
73223	MRI Upper Extremity Joint w/ & w/o Contrast	Abscess, Gout, Cellulitis, Lupus history, Osteomyelitis, Tendonitis, Synovitis, Tumor, Mass, Cancer, Metastasis, or Ulcer <i>[Clavicle - AC Joint, Shoulder, Elbow, Wrist]</i>
73220	MRI Upper Extremity Non-Joint w/ & w/o Contrast	Abscess, Cellulitis, Lupus history, Myositis, Osteomyelitis, Tumor, Mass, Cancer, Metastasis, or Ulcer <i>[Upper arm, Forearm, Hand, Finger]</i>
CPT CODE	CARDIAC	Signs / Symptoms / Reason for Study
75561	MRI Heart w/ & w/o Contrast	Aortic root evaluation, Coronary artery disease, Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, Left ventricular function and/or scar, Mitral valve prolapse, Pericardium disorder effusion, Pulmonary veins/arteries, Right ventricular dysplasia, Right ventricular enlargement, Septal defects, Status post-myocardial infarction, Valve stenosis, or Viability
75557	MRI Heart w/o Contrast	See CPT 75561 above. <i>[For those patient that cannot have contrast.]</i>
CPT CODE	BREAST	Signs / Symptoms / Reason for Study
19085	MRI Guided Breast Biopsy Unilateral	Pre-operative localization of lesion
77021	MRI Guided Needle Localization	<i>[Surgery must be scheduled at LVHN-CC.]</i>
77047	MRI Breast	Without contrast, bilateral
77048	MRI Breast	With and without contrast, including computer aided detection (CAD real-time lesion detection, when performed) unilateral
77049	MRI Breast	With and without contrast, including computer aided detection (CAD real-time lesion detection, when performed) bilateral
C8937	MRI Breast	Computer aided detection, including computer algorithm analysis of breast MRI image date for lesion detection/characterization

Update: March 2020