



Research MRI Safety Committee Standard

MRI SAFETY TRAINING

Category: Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Safety

Procedure #: MR.SOP.08

Applies to: Investigators, study personnel, Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) staff

PURPOSE:

MRI Safety Training seeks to ensure that Principal Investigators and study staff comprehend the safety risks of working in the magnetic environment and understand that proper screening of research subjects and individuals is necessary to maintain their well-being. The purpose of this document is to describe the MRI Safety Training requirements for use of scanners under the purview of the MCW Research MRI Safety Committee.

DEFINITIONS:

Magnetic Environment: the area where the magnetic field is greater than 5 gauss resulting in the potential for objects to become missiles or projectiles as they are attracted into the magnetic field of the scanner. Individuals who may have cardiac pacemakers or other implants and devices may be at risk to enter the magnetic environment. The magnetic field is always present and is three dimensional around the scanner.

MRI Safety Training: the instruction consistent with [American College of Radiology Training Level 2](#) that must be completed prior to working within the magnetic environment. This training addresses the safety risks of working in the magnetic environment as well as the proper screening of research subjects.

Safety Screening: the process of inquiring about the safety of individuals, including research subjects, prior to entering the magnetic environment. Screening also applies to checking equipment for safety prior to being used in the magnet room.

PROCEDURES:

- A. Individuals (i.e. Principal Investigators and Study Staff) entering the magnetic environment or responsible for screening research participants must complete the required MRI Safety Training prior to conducting or participating in studies in the magnetic environment unless granted an exemption by the Research MRI Safety Committee.
 1. Requests for exemptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis if the individual has an extensive MR background. Individuals may request an exemption by emailing MRIresearch@mcw.edu with a brief explanation of their MR-related qualifications and an attestation that the individual has no history of causing MR-related safety events.

2. Examples of possible exemptions include:

- Boarded radiologists
- Licensed MRI technologists
- Imaging researchers with more than three (3) years of experience in the technical operation of an MRI system

B. Exemption from initial training requirement does not extend to the annual renewal. If an exemption from initial training is granted, the individual must complete the annual renewal training instead.

C. Researchers must renew the MRI Safety Training on an annual basis. If training is allowed to expire and is not renewed with 1 year of the expiration date, the individual will be required to either attend the classroom session and take the corresponding final exam in order to renew training or request an exemption as described previously in A.1.

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