



# MCW MRI Safety Standard Operating Procedures

## Pregnancy and MRI Safety

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Category: Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Safety

Procedure #: MR.SOP. 09

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

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### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of these procedures is to ensure the safety of investigators, study personnel, MRI staff, accompanying parents or spouses who may be pregnant.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

Accompanying parents, spouses, or others: Individuals who, after thorough safety screening would be allowed to enter the magnetic environment to provide company and or comfort for the research subject.

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.

### Research Subject

A research subject is a human or animal participant who is placed into the bore of the MRI scanner for research purposes.

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

### Study Personnel

Study personnel are individuals including a student, staff member or laboratory assistant for whom the PI of the study is responsible, and who are at the MR scanner site during the study or may be recruiting subjects for the study.

### **PROCEDURES:**

- A. Research subjects may not participate in an MRI study if they are known or to be or may be pregnant.
- B. Pregnant study personnel, who have undergone proper MRI safety screening, may enter the magnet room to assist in the study, but must exit the scanner room before the RF and gradients are turned on.
- C. Pregnant parents, spouses, or other individuals who have undergone proper MRI safety screening, may enter the magnet room to accompany the research subject, but must exit the scanner room before the RF and gradients are turned on.

- D. Study personnel should make arrangements for testing if a research subject is not sure of pregnancy status.
- E. Study personnel should ensure individuals who are pregnant do not remain in the scanner room when the RF and gradients are on.
- F. The MRI research Scanner Operators should be informed of study personnel or others who are pregnant and present during the scanning session.
- G. Medical College of Wisconsin employees who are pregnant and do not want to enter the magnetic field are considered on a case by case basis by Department leadership in conjunction with Human Resources.

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