



Medicare MRI Guidelines for GP referrals

Item	Description - Adults (16 years of age and older)
63551	MRI Head <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unexplained seizure• Unexplained headache where significant pathology is suspected
63560	MRI Knee <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inability to extend the knee suggesting the possibility of an acute meniscal tear• Clinical findings suggest acute anterior cruciate ligament tear * From 01 November GPs will no longer be able to request knee MRIs under Medicare for patients aged 50 years of age and older.
63554	MRI Cervical Spine <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cervical radiculopathy
63557	MRI Cervical Spine <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cervical spine trauma
Item	Description - Children (under 16 years of age)
63507	MRI Head <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unexplained seizure• Unexplained headache where significant pathology is suspected• Paranasal sinus pathology which has not responded to conservative therapy
63510	MRI Spine <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant trauma• Unexplained neck or back pain with associated neurological signs• Unexplained back pain where significant pathology is suspected Medicare stipulates that an x-ray examination must be performed prior to MRI
63513	MRI Knee <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internal joint derangement Patients are no longer required to have an x-ray prior to receiving an MRI
63516	MRI Hip <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suspected septic arthritis• Suspected slipped capital femoral epiphysis• Suspected Perthes' disease Medicare stipulates that an x-ray examination must be performed prior to MRI
63519	MRI Elbow <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant fracture or avulsion injury is suspected that will change management Medicare stipulates that an x-ray examination must be performed prior to MRI
63522	MRI Wrist <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suspected scaphoid fracture Medicare stipulates that an x-ray examination must be performed prior to MRI