

Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences MRI Program

MRI Safety Policy

The MCSHS MRI Program is dedicated to providing safe clinical and laboratory experiences for students. This policy serves to define safe MR practices for students and reflects current American College of Radiology MR Safety guidelines to assure that all students are appropriately screened for magnetic field or radiofrequency hazards.

POLICY STATEMENT

There are no known biological risks associated with magnetic field or radiofrequency exposure to students that work in close proximity to MRI systems. The static magnetic field of the MRI machine is always on requiring that Zones III and IV be secured at all times. Ferromagnetic objects carried into Zone IV can become projectiles that may cause serious injury, death, or equipment failure.

MRI machines generate strong magnetic fields and radiofrequencies in the areas within and surrounding the MRI scanner, therefore all individuals must be screened to ensure safety prior to entering Zones III or IV of the MR environment. MR students will be educated to maintain safety in the MR environment prior to beginning clinical rotation assignment.

PROCEDURE

All students will be required to complete an MRI Screening Form prior to start of the program and again during program orientation. The Clinical Coordinator reviews this form privately with each student and each student reviews and signs the “MRI Screening Acknowledgement Form” (Appendix C). These forms are kept in the student’s program file.

Prior to beginning clinical rotations or participating in any scanning laboratory sessions utilizing volunteer patients, students will repeat the MRI Screening Form to ensure they are still safe to enter the MRI environment. Students are also required to successfully complete the MRI Safety Level 1 and Level 2 Personnel Training Modules.

Throughout the duration of the program, if a student has a change in their medical history that would change their MR screening status, they are **required** to alert the Program Director before participating in any clinical rotations or laboratory sessions.

Students who have been certified as Level 2 MR Personnel may personally enter Zone III and Zone IV unaccompanied. However, students may not grant any individual (i.e. patient, visitor, or non-MRI staff) access to Zone IV without a certified MRI Technologist present.

Any incident in which a student is responsible for a breach into Zone IV must be reported by completing a Safety Event Report Form (SERF). The student is also responsible for notifying the Clinical Coordinator of the incident the same day the event occurs. Each incident will be reviewed with the student by the Clinical Coordinator. The student may also be asked to participate in the Department of Radiology’s safety debriefing alongside the Clinical Coordinator.

If a student continues to be responsible for unsafe MRI practices, the following disciplinary actions may occur:

- **First Offense** – Coaching by Clinical Coordinator
- **Second Offense** – Verbal warning from the Program Director
- **Third Offense** - Managed with MCCMS through the Warning, Probation, Dismissal and Appeal Policy and Procedure

