

Procedure that requires prior approval

Thames Valley Priorities Committee Commissioning Policy Statement

Policy No. TVPC53 **Open magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans and standing / upright MRI scans**

Recommendation made by the Priorities Committee: **February 2017; Updated March 2019¹**

Date of issue: **June 2019**

Thames Valley Priorities Committee has considered the evidence for open MRI scans and standing or upright MRI scans. The Committee supports the use of an open MRI scan where one of the following criteria is met:

- Claustrophobia. A patient is claustrophobic and has previously failed an MRI scan with oral sedation in a wide bore MRI scanner at a local NHS trust
- Patient size. An MRI scan in a wide bore scanner at a local NHS trust has been unsuccessful due to the size of the patient and restriction of the MRI scanner tunnel

Remuneration for open MRI scans will be NHS tariff plus local MFF.

Due to the lack of evidence of clinical and cost effectiveness in comparison with conventional MRI scans, standing and upright MRI scans are **not normally funded**.

NOTES:

- Potentially exceptional circumstances may be considered by a patient's CCG where there is evidence of significant health status impairment (e.g. inability to perform activities of daily living) and there is evidence that the intervention sought would improve the individual's health status.
- This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance, eg, from NICE.
- Thames Valley clinical policies can be viewed at <http://www.fundingrequests.cscsu.nhs.uk/>

OPCS Procedure codes:*

U01.2 Magnetic resonance imaging of whole body
U05.2 Magnetic resonance imaging of head
U05.5 Magnetic resonance imaging of spine
U07.2 Magnetic resonance imaging of chest
U08.5 Magnetic resonance imaging of abdomen
U09.3 Magnetic resonance imaging of pelvis
U13.3 Magnetic resonance imaging of bone
U21.1 Magnetic resonance imaging NEC
U37.1 Magnetic resonance imaging of kidneys

*OPCS codes relate to conventional MRI scans. No OPCS codes are available specifically for open MRI scans and standing or upright MRI scans.

¹ No changes have been made.