



## THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING THE BRAIN & SPINE IMAGING CENTER

The Neurological & Spine Institute's Brain & Spine Imaging Center is exclusively dedicated to imaging of the brain and the spine. We offer a variety of advanced radiological technologies usually associated exclusively with hospitals, but with the convenience and care of an outpatient setting. Advanced radiological procedures are supervised and interpreted by board certified neuroradiologists with results made available within 24 hours.

Your surgeon has recommended that you have the following imaging tests as a part of your treatment plan:

- Diagnostic X-Ray** - picture of your skeletal structure. Our new, digital Fuji Film unit features a long-board that allows our team to take a complete picture of your entire spine in minutes.
- Ultrasound** - images that are created by sound waves that bounce off structures in the body and depict a diagnostic picture. This is often used by our surgeons to treat or prevent a number of endovascular conditions.
- MRI/MRA** - magnetic resonance imaging allows doctors to see inside a joint or ligament and can be used to diagnose tumors, spinal cord injuries, strokes, aneurysms, and more. Instead of radiation, MRIs use a strong magnetic field and radio waves to generate images that cannot be seen with x-ray technology (i.e. x-rays, CT).
- CT/CTA** - computed tomography uses x-rays to create sliced images of the body that, when stacked together, provide a look at organs and structures not easily detected by a traditional x-ray. Our doctors use our 16-slice GE unit to diagnose a number of cranial and spinal conditions.
- Lab Work**



## PRE-AUTHORIZATION

Most insurances require pre-authorization for more advanced imaging like MRI or CT scans. It can take up to 14 days to secure approval depending on your insurance plan. Your surgeon's team may schedule your CT or MRI with this in mind, often scheduling a follow up appointment on the same or next day.

**Your test(s) have been scheduled for:** Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ AM | PM

**LOCATION** | 6 Wheeler Street, Savannah, GA 31405

## WHAT TO BRING

- A copy of your current insurance card(s)
- Photo ID, such as a driver's license
- Any applicable co-pays or deductibles



## **NO SHOW/LATE POLICY**

Our imaging team aims to create a safe and efficient center for providing the highest quality patient care. We make every effort to schedule your appointments as efficiently as possible. In return, patients are responsible for making every effort to keep any scheduled appointments.

While we try to offer a 10-minute grace period for unforeseen delays a patient may encounter while travelling to the imaging center, patients arriving late may need to be moved to the next available opening. For this reason, we encourage patients to plan to arrive 10-15 minutes ahead of your scheduled test. This will allow you the time needed to check in and prepare for your test.

**Note:** Please be aware that you will need to arrive 30 minutes ahead of your scheduled time and have a designated driver with you if you require sedation prior to your test.

We do realize that unanticipated events can occur and may prevent you from keeping your appointment. We request that you notify the imaging team at (912) 503-2150 immediately when you realize you will not be able to keep your appointment as this gives us the ability to accommodate other patients who may be patiently waiting for a similar test. A patient who does not show for an appointment and who does not give a twenty-four (24) hour notice will be charged a \$40.00 cancellation fee.

## **IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- Because MRI uses powerful magnets, the presence of metal in your body can sometimes distort an MRI image. It can also be a safety hazard if the metal is attracted to the magnet. This is why it's important to let your doctors know whether you have metal or electronic devices (metallic joint prostheses, artificial heart valves, implanted nerve stimulators, metal clips, pins or screws, cochlear implants, intrauterine device, pacemaker, implanted drug infusion pump, etc.). This way they can help you confirm that the device you have is certified as MRI safe before scheduling you for an MRI exam.
- \* Diabetic patients please be aware that your glucose monitor patch must be removed before any imaging tests. Therefore, schedule your imaging test when you plan to switch your glucose patch.
- Before you schedule any diagnostic exam, make sure to let your doctor know if you think you're pregnant or if you are currently breast-feeding as this might determine the type of test your doctor recommends and whether or not they want to use contrast.
- It's also important to discuss kidney or liver problems with your doctor, because problems with these organs might limit the use of injected contrast agents during your scan.
- Other limitations specific to exams with contrast occur for those patients with an allergy to iodine and/or shellfish.

## **BILLING**

As a courtesy, we will file your insurance providing we have current insurance information on file. Any co-pays or co-insurance required by your plan up to \$200 may be required on the day of service. Any charges not paid by your insurance company within 90 days will become due and payable by you.

Patients who do not provide current insurance information will be treated as self-pay. Self-pay patients are expected to pay for services received in full at the time of service. We accept the following forms of payment: cash, check, American Express, MasterCard, Visa and Discover.