

MRI POLICIES

Safety Reads - the MRI unit will send structural MRIs to be interpreted by a neuroradiologist as requested by scan groups. The frequency at which this is done for individual subjects and interval between same-subject reads is determined by individual scan groups and their protocol(s). [Click here for IRB guidance with regard to neuroreads.](#)

Scheduling Time on the Scanner

The MRI Calendar is available online at [Calpendo \(nyspi.calpendo.com\)](https://nyspi.calpendo.com)

If you are using Calpendo for the first time, please [contact](#) Shiva regarding access - Groups' projects will be added to Calpendo once they are officially approved by the imaging director.

Scanner time is available seven days a week, excluding some holidays. The hours are 8am-8pm Monday-Friday (scan time is also available from 8pm-midnight with advanced scheduling, pending operator availability) and 9am-5pm on weekends (extended weekend hours may be negotiated on a per-case basis), as well as some holidays, pending operator availability. We will make every effort to accommodate same-day scheduling, however same-day scan slots scheduled during evening hours (after 6pm) may be subject to operator availability.

Groups may appoint one or more people as the responsible part for scheduling scanner time for a group and/or project, with the written approval of the project's Primary Principal Investigator.

Projects will be allotted a pre-allocated number of hours each month. Once a group has exceeded their calendar allotment, they may request additional time with valid reasoning, subject to approval by the Imaging Director. Allocations will be primarily determined based on two factors: an overall expected rate of scan for the project, and a fair distribution of available time to all active scanning groups. Priority may be given to scans based on grant deadlines and/or funding source.

We will make every effort to keep the schedule current for the following month. Time slots left open via cancellations will be offered to groups on a need-first basis (to make up for forced cancellations, etc) and then made available to anyone.

Handoff & Scanner Etiquette

Scan groups will be granted access to the scanner / experiment area at the beginning of their scheduled scan time. Scheduled scan time includes both participant & equipment setup, as well as equipment breakdown & participant removal from scanner. If additional setup or breakdown time is needed, please factor this into the amount of scan time scheduled. Groups are expected to be mindful & respectful of other groups' time and participant(s). Please do not enter the experiment / scanner area before your scheduled time unless the preceding group has granted permission to do so.

Please be mindful that the scanner is a shared resource. Groups will be expected to be completely clear of the scanner / setup area no later than the end of their scheduled scan time. If additional time is needed, the active scanning group must receive permission from the following scheduled group to use additional time, without exception. We understand that there may on occasion be situations during a scan session that prevent a group from acquiring a full data set. Depending on the cause and circumstances, and at the MRI unit's discretion, we will work with groups to determine how to proceed with rescheduling a participant when possible, as well as any modifications to billing if deemed necessary.

Cancellations

Scans must be cancelled 96 hours in advance to avoid paying a cancellation fee. For the purpose of cancellation, hours refers to all 24 hours in a day (including weekends). This lead window is to ensure adequate time for other scan groups to find a participant and use the slot. Scans cancelled within this period, prior to the day of the scan, will be charged one half of the hourly rate for each hour cancelled. Scans cancelled on the day of the scan will be charged the full rate.

If a group schedules and cancels a scan within the 96 hour cancellation window, i.e., a group books a scan on Tuesday for a scan session on Thursday of that week, and then cancels before the Thursday, they will not be penalized. If the group cancels the scan day-of in this circumstance, they will be charged half of the hourly rate.

If a group schedules a same-day scan session and cancels before the time of the scan they will not be charged a cancellation penalty.

Groups with a high rate of cancellation may be subject to a reduction in allotted hours. This reduction is temporary, and will be reviewed on a monthly basis. Certain time slots are high-demand, and this is done to ensure that all groups are able to have an opportunity to use the available time.

Pilot Data

All new studies will be granted one initial scan under the protocol, to be designated a "pilot" scan, at no charge, to ensure their study starts off and runs as intended, and to verify that proper time has been allocated for session length. Pilot data should be collected on a subject consented under a study protocol as part of the study cohort or control group. After the initial pilot scan, subsequent scans under a protocol should be scheduled as paid scan time.

Pilot scans are not the same as "testing time." Scans intended to work out bugs, optimize sequences, test paradigms and equipment, etc., should be scheduled as testing time (see section below).

Testing Time

All requests for testing that will require blocking off scanner time, regardless of purpose, must be approved by the MRI team. Please submit the following when requesting a test – The purpose of the test, who or what is being scanned, as well as said subject's role within the scanning group, if applicable. Subjects scanned for testing purposes do not need signed consent, provided that the images and data collected are used for no purpose other than quality control and/or to test methods. Data collected for grant submissions and other purposes beyond quality control will require consent under the IRB protocol: TBD - Modification of MRI Pulse Sequences. All testing should be scheduled during the earliest or latest available slots when possible. Any requests for testing during other time slots will be granted only if the time is still vacant at 5pm the day before the proposed test, unless an exception is granted in writing. Images and other data obtained during testing time are intended for the purposes of optimizing pulse sequences, acquisition methods, paradigm feasibility, analysis techniques, grant submissions, or pilot data for a given study and may not be included in final project-related data sets for publication. All test scan images and data will be made available to other researchers via the “test” project in XNAT. Paid scans will be given priority over testing, and a test slot may be cancelled (with at least 24 hour notice) should a group request the time for a paid scan. Groups who request excessive testing time for a project may be asked to provide justification, or to contact MRI staff & faculty for help optimizing and/or troubleshooting.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us, and we'll be happy to help as best we can. We realize that last minute circumstances may arise, experiment code bugs, issues, etc., can happen, and exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

Billing & Rates

Current Billing Rates

Costs for RFMH applications: \$625/hour + \$60 neuroradiology reading per subject

Costs for non-RFMH* applications: \$725/hour + \$60 neuroradiology reading per subject

Costs for Industry Sponsored Contracts: \$1225/hour + \$60 neuroradiology reading per subject

Annual 3% increase is to be included in budget for subsequent years.

*If the CU source of funding is not an NIH grant, please speak to Janelle to make additional arrangements

Ongoing Studies will continue at the agreed upon rates.

the MRI Unit will generate billing sheets for each group and a copy will be sent to the group's designated administrator.

RA Training Guidelines

- For new or existing study staff with no previous scanning experience at or safety certification at NYSPI or ZMBBI, the following are required:
- Attend a NYSPI MRI Safety training class, to take place in person at NYSPI – a remote option is not offered due to the hands on nature of the class. Classes are offered as needed, and will be limited in size due to space constraints.
- Complete a quiz on REDCap demonstrating a clear understanding of the concepts presented in the safety training
- Attend three scan sessions at NYSPI – it is strongly encouraged that you attend scans that require skills related to your own groups scan sessions (for example, connecting a laptop and running paradigms, if your sessions will require that) . If there are inadequate scans to allow for shadowing, the MRI Unit will conduct live trainings that will help fulfill this requirement.

After attending the three required scans, study staff will be granted a probationary status and will be allowed to attend scan sessions and have full magnet room access. After the study staff member actively demonstrates they're able to complete scan tasks without assistance, they will be granted ID Badge-access to the MRI suite's participant entrance while MRI staff are present and may run scans on their own.

For new or existing study staff with no previous scanning experience at or safety certification at NYSPI but have completed level 2 training at ZMBBI, the following are required:

- Verify completion of level 2 training at ZMBBI with MRI administrator ([Shiva Kalaiselvan](#))
- Attend an abridged training session, and read NYSPI MRI Safety Manual
- Complete a REDCap quiz demonstrating a clear understanding of safety guidelines and policies at NYSPI

After the study staff member actively demonstrates they're able to complete scan-related tasks without assistance, they will be granted badge-access to the MRI suite's participant entrance while MRI staff are present and may run scans on their own.

All study staff are required to complete an annual review and quiz via REDCap demonstrating a clear understanding of safety guidelines and policies at NYSPI.

Data Access Policy

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All imaging data acquired by the NYSPI MRI Research Program will have no identifying information or Protected Health Information (PHI) resident in the image header(s). At no point may an Investigator request that images be acquired or created with PHI or other identifying information resident in the scan data. All subjects must have a pre-assigned ID for the scan session that may not use any permutation or derivation of the subject's Protected Health Information, including names, initials, dates of birth, or any other information designated as key identifiers/PHI by the [United States Department of Health and Human Services](#).

Distribution of Images

All images acquired by NYSPI MRI under a signed IRB consent form for a specific protocol are the property of the primary Principal Investigator as listed on the IRB Protocol. After each scan session for a specific protocol, the image data will be transferred to the XNAT neuroimaging database via encrypted transmission, and hosted on a secure server at NYSPI. The image data may only be distributed directly to the XNAT project on the account of the Principal Investigator as named in the IRB protocol for the specific scan session.

There are no exceptions to this policy. An investigator may, at his or her discretion, freely request data access in writing for whomever they wish. NYSPI MRI will facilitate and grant access to a study's imaging data only with written approval (email is preferred) from the primary PI for the study. If a user's access expires from inactivity, an additional request from the PI will be required for reenabling access. XNAT user accounts may be created for all Principal Investigators as well as their collaborators; however we will only transmit data directly to the corresponding XNAT project tied to the Principal Investigator's account for the specific scan session.

Test Data

Any data acquired for quality control or testing purposes and not specifically designated as pilot data for an IRB protocol (please note, studies are granted ONE free pilot scan for a study, any further scans collected under a protocol must be designated as paid scans or scheduled as tests and subjects consented under the Optimization of MRI Pulse Sequences, IRB Protocol TBD) must be made freely available to any other researchers who would like to use it for evaluating processing methods, etc., unless a special exemption is granted in writing by the current director of the MRI Research Program. Test data acquired in this manner may not be used as part of a data set for a published study.

Data Retention

The MRI Scanning Console has a limited amount of storage space for images and console performance is greatly affected by the number of images in the console database, therefore we are able to retain exams and their respective images for a maximum of one week on the console, after which point the exams will be cleared to create additional space. We ask that all groups check their exam status on XNAT for any missing data or file(s) and notify us within this period following any scanning session so that we can make every effort to recover any missing data. Transferred images will be stored indefinitely on XNAT.

Additionally, certain scan types (MRS, for example) generate additional P-Files that are transferred to a secondary server following a scan session. Groups are asked to verify this secondary transfer following their scan session as well as retrieve these files as soon as possible. Missing P-files have a limited window of recovery due to their temporary status on the console, so we ask that groups make every effort to check P-files within one week of a scan session.

For any questions regarding data transfer and policy, please email matthew.riddle@nyspi.columbia.edu