



Medicare MRI Guidelines for GP referrals

Item	Description - Adults (16 years of age and older)
63551	MRI Brain <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unexplained seizure• Unexplained chronic headaches with suspected intracranial pathology
63560	MRI Knee <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inability to extend the knee suggesting acute meniscal tear• Clinical findings suggest acute anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear <p><i>From 01 November, 2018 GPs will no longer be able to request knee MRIs under Medicare for patients aged 50 years of age and older.</i></p>
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 Brain <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unexplained seizure• Unexplained headaches• Paranasal sinus pathology which has not responded to conservative therapy
63510	MRI Cervical 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 <p><i>Medicare stipulates that an x-ray examination must be performed prior to MRI</i></p>
63513	MRI Knee <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internal joint derangement
63516	MRI Hip <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suspected septic arthritis• Suspected slipped capital femoral epiphysis• Suspected Perthes' disease <p><i>Medicare stipulates that an x-ray examination must be performed prior to MRI</i></p>
63519	MRI Elbow <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant fracture or avulsion injury is suspected that will change management <p><i>Medicare stipulates that an x-ray examination must be performed prior to MRI</i></p>
63522	MRI Wrist <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suspected scaphoid fracture <p><i>Medicare stipulates that an x-ray examination must be performed prior to MRI</i></p>

*Please indicate the appropriate item number and description on the referral.