

## About Your Advanced Imaging Exam

*Scheduling, insurance approval, and follow-up*

*This handout is for patients at UW Medicine Sports Medicine Center. It explains what to expect when you are having an advanced imaging exam.*

### What is an advanced imaging exam?

Your provider has advised you to get an *advanced imaging exam*. This may be a *magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) exam*, a *computed tomography (CT) scan*, or another type of imaging exam.

### Approval from Your Insurance

Advanced imaging is costly. If you want your insurance to cover your exam, **you must get their approval before the exam**. This is called getting *prior authorization*.

Getting this approval can take several days. It may take a few weeks if they need special forms.

- **If you will have your imaging exam at UWMC:** Our financial department will get the approval from your insurance. But, we will **not** contact them until you have scheduled your exam.
- **If you will have your imaging exam at another facility:** Talk with staff at that facility about getting approval from your insurance.

### How to Prepare

#### If your exam will be done at UWMC Radiology:

- Call 206.598.6214 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to set up a time for your exam.
  - Schedule your exam for at least 4 to 7 days from the day you call. This should give us enough time to get the approval.
  - We will send Radiology your provider's referral by computer.
- To find out if we have gotten approval, call Radiology at 206.598.6214 before your imaging exam.



*If your exam will be done at UWMC, call Radiology at 206.598.6214 to set up your appointment.*

- If we have not gotten approval, but you wish to have the exam anyway, **you must sign a waiver when you check in for your exam.** The waiver tells us that you will pay all fees if your insurance will not cover the exam.

### **If your exam will be done at another facility:**

- Call the facility to set up a time for your imaging exam.
- Tell us where you will be having the imaging done. We will fax them your provider's referral.
- Talk with facility staff about getting approval from your insurance.

### **After Your Exam**

Unless we give you other instructions, schedule a follow-up visit at the Sports Medicine Center. Your provider will review your results at this visit.

### **If your exam was done at UWMC:**

- We can access the images right after your exam. But, a radiologist must see the images and create a full report. It may take 1 to 3 days for this report to be ready.
- If you need copies of your images on disc, call 206.598.6206. You may need to pay a fee for this service.

### **If your exam was done at another facility:**

Before you leave the facility:

- Ask for 2 items: your **non-compressed images on a CD** and a **written report.**
- Or, ask them to fax the report to 206.598.3140 and to send the images to us through the UWMC/HMC PACS system. If they use this system, they must call us **right away** at 206.598.3294. If they do not call us, we may not receive the images.

### **Questions?**

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

UW Medicine Sports Medicine Center: Call 206.598.DAWG (3294) and press 2 when you hear the recording.

### **Follow-up at UW Medicine Sports Medicine Center**

To set up your follow-up visit, call 206.598.3294 and press 2 when you hear the recording. Try to have this visit 2 to 3 days after your imaging exam. This gives us time to review your report and images.

**If you had your exam at another facility and have your images on CD, please bring them and the report to your follow-up visit.**

At this visit, your provider will explain the results of your exam. You and your provider will decide next steps, as needed. You may also read your results on your eCare Results page.