

## During the Exam

Open MRI staff is dedicated to make your MRI exam a pleasant experience. If there is anything they can do to help you during the exam please do not hesitate to ask. Occasionally contrast injection is needed for further evaluation. Please inform the technologist if you have any allergies to contrast (although this is rare with MRI contrast).

## Do I need to do anything special after the scan?

You may resume your normal activities after the scan, unless you have been medicated for claustrophobia or pain. In that case, you will need someone to drive you home.

## How do I get the results?

The Radiologist will read the MRI scan and will send a report to your doctor. Your doctor, using the information obtained from the MRI scan and your other tests, will then inform you of the results.

If you have any questions or concerns about this test, please ask your doctor, nurse or the Radiology staff.

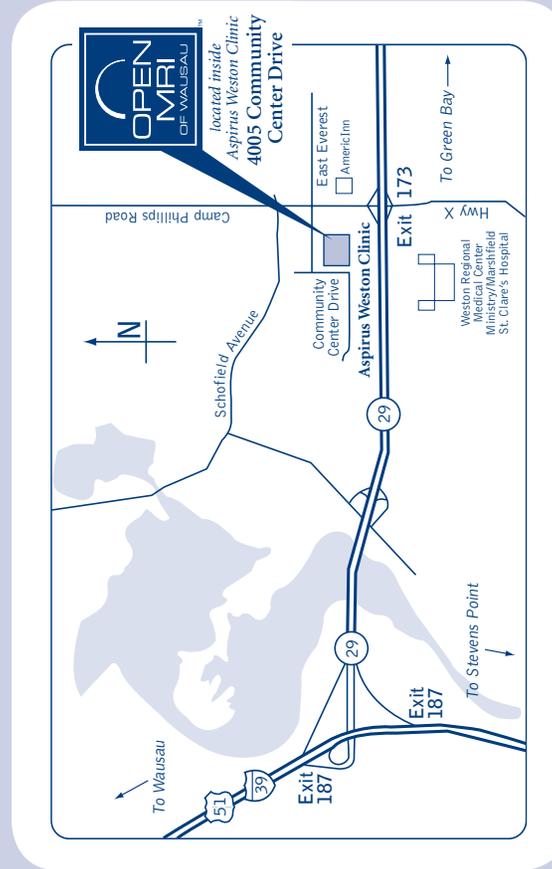
Open MRI of Wausau staff are available at 715-241-5425 or 715-241-5013, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Open MRI of Wausau is just NORTH of the Intersection/Exit of Highway 29 and Camp Phillips Road.**

It is located inside the Aspirus Weston Clinic building. It is across Highway 29 from St. Clare's Hospital, Marshfield Clinic, and Ministry Medical Center.

**OPEN MRI OF WAUSAU**  
Weston Clinic Building, Suite 120  
4005 Community Center Drive  
Weston, WI 54476  
Hours: M-F 8 am-5 pm

**For appointments or additional information, call:  
715-847-2020 or 1-888-616-5611  
[www.openmriofwausau.com](http://www.openmriofwausau.com)**



**Making MRIs  
more comfortable  
for you and  
your loved ones.**



**Central Wisconsin's only  
advanced-capability open MRI  
makes MRI more comfortable  
for every patient.**

- No need to slide into a confining, narrow tube
- More comfortable for larger people
- Expert healthcare from a friendly, caring staff
- Diagnostic results relayed promptly to your doctor
- Fast appointment scheduling
- Convenient location, easy parking

## What is MRI? Why is MRI important?

MRI is a way of looking inside your body using a magnetic field and radio waves instead of x-rays. A strong magnet and radio waves work together to form a sharp image.

MRI can provide a detailed view of every organ in your body. This information can lead to early detection and treatment of diseases, which in the past have only been found by surgery. MRI can detect abnormal tissues caused by an injury, tumor or medical illness.

## Arrival and scan time

You will need to arrive 30 minutes (60 minutes if Orbit x-rays are ordered) prior to your exam. The actual scan time is 30 to 60 minutes for each examination.

## How do I prepare for the scan?

No special preparation is needed. Eat normally and take medication as usual, unless your doctor has given you other instructions. If you have any special needs, for example, you cannot stand, need oxygen, special care of any kind, please notify us so we can prepare.

**Let your doctor know before your appointment if you are claustrophobic or if pain prevents you from lying still.** If medically indicated, your doctor may order medication to help you relax (even with an "Open Scanner") and/or to relieve some of the pain. If medication is ordered, you will need to arrive 1/2 hour before your scan time for the medication to be taken and for it to take effect. You will need someone to drive you home after your MRI scan. It is very important that you are able to lie still for the exam.  
**MOVEMENT WILL BLUR THE PICTURES.**

## What are the risks to having MRI?

MRI is very safe, as long as precautions are appropriately maintained. Metal on or in your body can affect the MRI pictures. Metal can cause discomfort or serious injury when placed in the magnetic field. There is also a very slight risk of burns with any MRI. The following list includes important items that may affect your scan. Based on this information the MRI staff will determine if you can have a MRI Scan.

- Cardiac pacemaker, defibrillator, artificial heart valve or recent heart surgery
- Metal plate, pin or other metal implant
- Intrauterine device (IUD)
- Insulin pump or other infusion pump
- Aneurysm clips or past brain surgery
- Stents
- Previous gun wound, shrapnel or metal fragments
- Inner ear implant (cochlear implant)
- Metal fragments in eye or face (including metal shavings, slivers, bullets or BB's)
- Permanent (tattooed) eyeliner
- Tattoos or medication patch
- Neurostimulator (TENS unit or device to stimulate nerves)
- Body piercings or any metal objects
- Patient weight over 500lbs.
- Pregnant or breastfeeding
- Any prior surgery to scan location

**Based on this information the MRI staff will determine if you can have a MRI Scan.**

It is important to let your doctor and the MRI technologist know if you have any allergies.



## Who performs the scan and what is it like?

A Registered Radiologic Technologist, who is trained in MRI, will perform the scan under the direction and supervision of a Board Certified Radiologist (a physician who specializes in medical imaging). The technologist will have you fill out a history form and ask you some questions prior to your scan.

Due to the strong magnetic field, you must remove all metal objects before you are scanned. This would include watches, jewelry, glasses, hairpins, clothing with zippers, keys, hearing aids, non-permanent dentures, credit cards (the magnetic waves would erase the credit card codes) and any other metal objects you might be carrying.

You may be asked to change into a hospital gown.

Once all metal has been removed, you will be comfortably positioned on the MRI table, lying flat.

The MRI makes a loud knocking or thumping sound while it is producing the images. For your comfort, you will be asked to wear earplugs or headphones. You may listen to the radio, or bring your own CD or cassette from home to listen to.

The MRI technologist will go to an outer room to perform the scan. The technologist will talk to you through a speaker. During the test, the technologist can hear you, and is able to see you through a window.

During the test, it is important that you lie still and follow the instructions of the technologist.  
**MOVEMENT WILL BLUR THE PICTURES.**