

## **Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Priorities Forum Statement**

**Number: 64**

**Subject: Open MRI Scanning**

**Date of decision: June 2014**

**Date of review: June 2017**

### **Guidance**

Open MRI scanning is not routinely available and should be used only where one of the following two criteria are met, and should be prior approved via CCG IFR departments.

#### **Category 1 - Claustrophobic**

In the first instance all referrals will be reviewed by a Radiologist, the Radiology department can meet with any patient that has concerns regarding MRI scanning to alleviate any fears. Some patients will decide to try and undergo the MRI scan without sedation following this.

If fears cannot be alleviated or the patient fails an MRI scan without sedation, if suitable, the patient could be offered sedation under clinical supervision. This should usually be oral sedation. Other modalities eg CT scan can be considered as an alternative if suitable.

To approve under this category, the referral would need to evidence that the sedation pathway has been followed.

**Prior approval from the relevant CCG is only required for direct access request referrals to an Open MRI scanner; any unauthorised referrals will not be funded. The request must come from the radiology department and be supported by appropriate evidence.**

#### **Category 2 - Patient Size**

The size of a patient and the restriction of the MRI scanner tunnel will vary depending on the patients and the circumstances. Some patients may be large but would still be suitable for a conventional closed MRI.

In the first instance, the patient should be invited to attend the radiology department and be formally assessed by the radiology service for suitability. If the closed MRI is not suitable (after review) and the referring consultant still feels that an MRI scan is needed, then the patient could be considered for an Open MRI scan.

To approve under this category, the radiographer will need to provide evidence regarding issues of size.

**Human Rights and Equality Legislation has been considered in the formation of this guidance.**