What is an MRI?
Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a type of scan used to diagnose health conditions that affect organs, tissue and bone. It is very important that you keep still during your MRI scan. Your scan can last between 15 and 90 minutes, depending on the size of the area being scanned and how many images are taken.

MRI SAFETY
Unlike X-rays, MRI uses strong magnetic fields and radio waves to produce detailed images of the body. MRI is very safe and most people can have the examination, including pregnant women and babies. At certain times during the MRI scan, the scanner will make loud knocking noises. You will be given earplugs or headphones to wear. The strong magnets that are used during MRI can interfere with certain medical devices that are implanted in the body. We will ask you some questions about your medical history and complete an MRI safety screening form before your scan.

MRI may not be performed if you have:
- A pacemaker
- Implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD)
- A nerve stimulator
- A cochlear implant
- Brain aneurysm clips
- Prosthetic (artificial) metal
- Heart valves
- Penile implants or eye implants
- A tattoo previous eye injury involving metal

Medications
You should never stop taking any prescribed medications, unless you are advised to by your doctor or other health care professional responsible for your care.

Preparation
For some MRI examinations, you may be asked to follow some instructions, to prepare for the test. You will be advised of any preparation to be followed before your procedure.

Contrast Media
To see certain parts of the body clearly, such as your intestines or blood vessels, we may use a contrast media (dye). In MRI, contrast media is usually injected into your bloodstream. In rare cases, contrast medium can cause an adverse reaction. If contrast is needed, we will ask you some questions about your medical history and check your suitability, before your test.
Let us know if you:

- Are diabetic
- Are asthmatic
- Have had a previous reaction to contrast media
- Have any allergies
- Have any heart, kidney or liver problems
- Are anxious about your MRI examination
- Have any questions or concerns about pregnancy
- Are worried about the risks of your test
- Are unable to perform any of the instructions required for the test, before your appointment

Tips for keeping you safe
Ensure you inform the staff of any slip, trip or falls you may have had within the last six months. Bring any mobility aids you use at home with you, to assist outside the scanning area. Help promote infection control within the hospital, by using the hand sanitizer from the stations provided. Wear your hospital ID bracelet while you are at the hospital. Free interpretation services are available, upon request.

Self-Screen
Please reschedule your appointment if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Trouble breathing
- Body aches or tiredness
- Bad headache

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Diagnostic Imaging Department at 416-431-8107 (General campus) or 416-495-2480 (Birchmount campus).