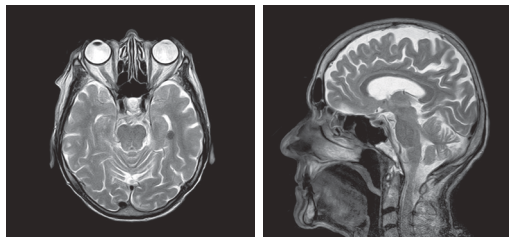


What can I expect when my MRI exam is finished?

When you are finished with your MRI examination you may leave the department and in most cases, return to your normal activities. The Radiologic Technologist will present your scan to the Radiologist who will review your images and make a final diagnosis. The final results are sent to your referring physician who will discuss the findings with you.

Boundary Community Hospital's Diagnostic Imaging Department is 100% digital and fully integrated with Kootenai Health, Sacred Heart Medical Center, Deaconess Medical Center, Bonner General Hospital, Benewah Community Hospital and Shoshone Medical Center through The Northwest Hospital Alliance Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS) so that our images and reports can be shared and viewed with other facilities and your physician. This system eliminates the use of hard copy x-rays, making faster image interpretation and more accurate diagnoses possible.



Diagnostic Imaging Department Contact Information

For more information on the Diagnostic Imaging Department or to make an appointment call (208) 267-3141 ext 4258

*MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)
available on Thursdays each week.
Thursday 7 am to 5 pm*

Check In at the Admitting Reception Desk in the Outpatient Clinic. Outpatient Clinic is located on the southeast side of the Hospital off Comanche Street.



At Boundary Community Hospital, our goal is to provide the community with timely modern radiology services that are second to none. Your health is important to you, and so is your time. You can expect fast and friendly service from the moment you schedule your exam to the moment your physician receives the results.

Diagnostic Services

- MRI every Thursday
- CT Scan (Computer Tomography)
- Ultrasound
- Diagnostic X-ray
- Fluoroscopy
- Mammography
- Dexa Scans (Bone Densitometry; Body Composition)



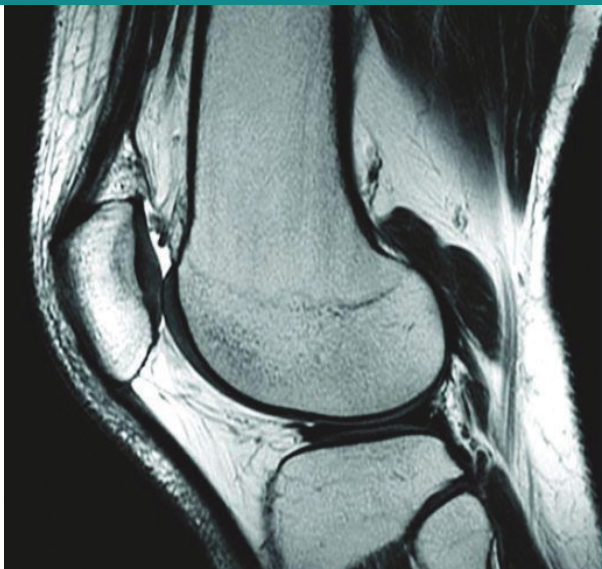
6640 Kaniksu Street
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
(208) 267-3141
www.boundarycommunityhospital.org

Diagnostic Imaging

MRI Magnetic Resonance Imaging

*A Tradition of
Caring for Our Community*





Boundary Community Hospital has a reputation for quality and excellence in providing superb diagnostic imaging, thoughtful patient care and professional radiological interpretations.

Board-certified by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, the experienced Radiologic Technologists manage the state-of-the-art equipment producing high quality imaging for accurate diagnoses and effective treatment.

The Diagnostic Imaging Department offers a wide range of inpatient, outpatient and emergency radiological services including CT (Computerized Tomography), digital mammography, bone density scanning, ultrasound, general radiology and fluoroscopy. We also offer MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) every Thursday.

All exams require an order from your health care provider. Some insurance companies and Medicare Advantage require prior authorization for advanced imaging. Fluoroscopy, ultrasound, MRI, CT Scan and mammography are usually scheduled in advance.

What if I am Claustrophobic? If you know this in advance of the exam, please discuss this with your physician. He/she can prescribe an oral medication to help you relax. Follow your physician's instructions about when to take your prescription. Even if you are claustrophobic, our technologist will work with you to help you feel at ease throughout the exam.

What is MRI?

MRI stands for "magnetic resonance imaging." It's a non-invasive, revolutionary process that enables doctors to "see" right through bone as well as evaluate soft tissue inside your body, without surgery and without the radiation that is used in x-rays and CT scans.

In simple terms, this is how it works: the MRI scanner creates a strong pull that aligns your body's protons in the same direction. Next, a radio signal is beamed into the magnetic field, causing the protons to move out of alignment. When the beam stops, the protons line up once again, releasing energy as they move. Different types of tissue release slightly different signals, which are measured by a receiver coil. A computer translates the measurements into a highly accurate image of your internal anatomy.

Conditions that may not be apparent from physical signs and symptoms can be clearly seen using MRI. Diagnostic-quality MR images provide highly accurate information to your physician, who is then able to prescribe the appropriate treatment.

The level of detail an MRI scan provides means there can be much greater accuracy in the early detection and treatment of disease. Early treatment is often less expensive and much more successful - which means MRI can save both time and money and, in some cases, early detection can also save a life.

In addition, MRI exams use NO radiation and pose no known health concerns. Best of all, the procedure is virtually painless and may eliminate the need for diagnostic surgery.

The Scan: What to Expect

To begin the examination, a technologist will help you lie down on a padded table. You will be positioned so that the part of your body to be examined lies in the center of the machine. A coil may be attached to the part of the body to be scanned, and your physician may request that a contrast agent be injected (to enhance the images). The table will then slide into the center of the MRI machine.

You will be asked to hold still for short periods of time while the scan is in progress. Expect to hear a loud knocking noise from the machine as the pictures are taken. The Radiologic Technologist, who will be monitoring the exam from an adjoining room, will be able to hear you and talk with you at all times.

Preparing for your MRI

Scheduling

Your MRI requires very little effort on your part. It's a simple process, but preparation is essential! Typically the doctor's office will schedule your exam for you and we will get all of the information we need from them. On the day of your exam, you will need to inform us if:

- you are pregnant
- you've ever had surgery
- you're on pain medication
- you're claustrophobic
- you have an incident of metal to your eyes
- you have cardiac valve replacements or a pacemaker, bone or joint replacements, or aneurysm clips

These conditions may not exclude you from having an MRI scan, but they'll be important determining factors.

The Day Of

Your first task for this day is simple: Relax. Typically you can eat normally and take prescribed medication the day of your MRI exam. If you are having an examination of the abdominal area your physician may request that you abstain from eating prior to your scan.

For your personal comfort, you may want to have someone accompany you. He or she may be able to sit and talk with you during the exam.

We recommend you wear comfortable clothing, free of snaps and zippers. Since rings, watches, and earrings are all metal, and thus, could interfere with your scan, you may decide to leave them at home.

Upon Arrival

You will check in at the admissions desk at the Outpatient Clinic. Once you have signed in, the department staff will come to the waiting area to escort you to the proper imaging area. Please be prepared to provide information on your insurance and medical history. The Radiologic Technologist will be happy to discuss all aspects of your MRI exam and answer any remaining questions you may have at that time. The report of the exam will be electronically sent to your provider within 24 hours.