

Caregiver Letter for Neonatal MRI Brain Exam Without Contrast and Sedation



Children's
of Alabama

1600 7th Ave S • Birmingham, AL 35233 • 205.638.9100

Your child _____ **(Child's name)**

is scheduled on _____ **(Date of MRI)**

at **Children's of Alabama, Benjamin Russell building, MRI** or at the **Pediatric Imaging Center at South** **(Circle one)**

You are receiving this letter to help prepare you for your time in the Imaging Department at Children's of Alabama.

WHAT IS PEDIATRIC MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI)?

Pediatric Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) uses a magnetic field and radiofrequency pulses to create specialized two and three-dimensional images of your child's body. MRI for children is a way to see tissues, organs and blood vessels anywhere in the body without exposing your child to ionizing radiation.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR MY CHILD'S MRI

- Your child should arrive hungry and awake for their MRI.
- We will use the "feed and bundle" technique, which helps induce natural sleep in infants by feeding and swaddling to try to avoid sedation/general anesthesia.
- We will ask you to undress your child so we can swaddle them in warm blankets.
- We will have you give your child a bottle or nurse them so they fall asleep naturally.

Please bring a full bottle along with an extra bottle. If your child is only breastfed, we will provide you with a private space.

WHAT TO EXPECT BEFORE MY CHILD'S MRI

- Check in at the registration desk and have a seat in the waiting room.
- An MRI team member will escort you and your child to a separate waiting room/preparation room.
- You will fill out assessment and pre-screening forms, including a caregiver screening form if you plan to go with your child into the MRI suite.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **Please do not give your child a bottle or feed them at least 2 hours before your scheduled arrival time.** We want to swaddle and feed your child at the time of the MRI. If your child has been fed and has slept prior to the MRI, they may not want to sleep during the MRI. If the child is unable to fall asleep and hold still, we will not be able to obtain the images and complete the MRI.
- There may be an opportunity to retry later in the day; however, this is not a guarantee.
- If we are unable to complete the MRI, the MRI team will reach out to your ordering physician and let them know.
- The MRI exam will take approximately 20 minutes. However, it can take longer if the patient moves.

The MRI department welcomes all calls/questions.

Children's Hospital MRI - 205-638-3157
Pediatric Imaging Center at South - 205-638-4886