

# Neuro Imaging

## MRI–CPT Quick Reference

STUDY	CPT DESCRIPTION	CPT CODE	INDICATIONS FOR EXAM OR STUDY		CONTRAST REQUIRED?	SPECIALTY
<b>MRI BRAIN</b>	MRI Brain without contrast	70551	Alzheimer's Mental status change Confusion Dementia Memory Loss Suspected MS	Stroke/CVA TIA (transient ischemic attack) Trauma Dizziness/Vertigo Headaches	No	Neurology
	MRI Brain with and without contrast	70553	Tumor/Mass/Cancer Cranial nerve lesions HIV/AIDS Infection Multiple sclerosis (MS) Neurofibromatosis Hearing loss, IAC mass	Pituitary lesion Acoustic neuroma Bell's palsy (facial weakness) Visual change Metastases Vascular lesions (AVM) Recurrent cholesteatoma	Yes	Neurology
<b>MRA BRAIN</b> Arterial circulation Circle of Willis (COW)	MRA Brain without contrast	70544	Aneurysm or family history of aneurysm Transient ischemic attack (TIA) Stroke/CVA (cerebrovascular accident)		No	Neurology
<b>MRV BRAIN</b> Venous circulation	MRA Brain with and without contrast	70546	Venous/Sinus thrombosis Venous circulatory symptoms	Vascular lesions (AVM)	Determined by radiologist	Neurology
<b>MRA NECK</b> <b>Carotid MRA</b>	MRA Neck with and without contrast	70549	Bruit Stroke/CVA (cerebrovascular accident) Transient ischemic attack (TIA) Abnormal doppler	Dizziness Vascular lesions (AVM)	Yes	Neurology
<b>MRI ORBITS</b> Includes brain plus cuts thru the orbits	MRI Brain with and without contrast	70553	Trauma Graves' disease Exophthalmos/Proptosis	Pseudotumor Tumor/Mass/Cancer/Mets Vascular lesions (Hemangioma)	Yes	Neurology
<b>MRI NECK</b> Soft tissue	MRI Orbits/Face/Neck with and without contrast	70543	Infection Pain	Tumor/Mass/Cancer/Mets Vocal cord paralysis	Yes	Neurology
<b>MRI SPINE</b> Cervical	MRI Cervical spine without contrast	72141	Neck pain Arm/Shoulder pain Disk herniation (HNP)	Numbness Degenerative disk disease Radiculopathy	No	Neurology
	MRI Cervical spine with and without contrast	72156	Syringomyelia (syrinx) Discitis (disk infection) Osteomyelitis	Myelopathy Tumor/Mass/Cancer/Mets Known Multiple sclerosis (MS)*	Yes	Neurology
<b>MRI SPINE</b> Thoracic	MRI Thoracic spine without contrast	72146	Back pain or Trauma Degenerative disk disease Disk herniation (HNP) Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Radiculopathy Compression fracture (no history of malignancy)	No	Neurology
	MRI Thoracic spine with and without contrast	72157	Syringomyelia (syrinx) Discitis (disk infection) Osteomyelitis	Myelopathy Tumor/Mass/Cancer/Mets Known Multiple sclerosis (MS)*	Yes	Neurology
<b>MRI SPINE</b> Lumbar	MRI Lumbar spine without contrast	72148	Back/Leg pain Degenerative disk disease Disk herniation (HNP) Radiculopathy Trauma	Sciatica/Radiculopathy Spondylolisthesis Spinal stenosis Compression fracture Scoliosis	No	Neurology
	MRI Lumbar spine with and without contrast	72158	Discitis (disk infection) Osteomyelitis	Post-op hx of back surgery Tumor/Mass/Cancer/Mets	Yes	Neurology
<b>MRI LUMBOSACRAL PLEXUS</b>	MRI Pelvis without contrast	72195	Leg pain/Sciatica Radiculopathy	Lumbar plexopathy Sacral/Coccyx pain	No	Neurology
<b>MRI BRACHIAL PLEXUS</b>	MRI Upper extremity non-joint with and without contrast	73220	Shoulder injury Nerve avulsion	Brachial plexopathy	Determined by radiologist	Neurology

**Neuro Physician Hotline:** 919-676-5090 (7 days a week)

**Main Scheduling:** 919-232-4700 (choose option 1) **Main Fax:** 919-235-3940 **Chapel Hill Scheduling:** 919-942-3196 **Chapel Hill Fax:** 919-933-9925