



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí

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Deputy Michael Fitzmaurice
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

2nd August 2023

PQ 35899/23 - To ask the Minister for Health if he will advise which hospital has a MRI machine that is compatible with a pace-maker in order for a patient who has this fitted to have a MRI completed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Fitzmaurice

Dear Deputy Fitzmaurice,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The National Clinical Head of Medical Devices has advised in order to respond to your Parliamentary question, the following applies.

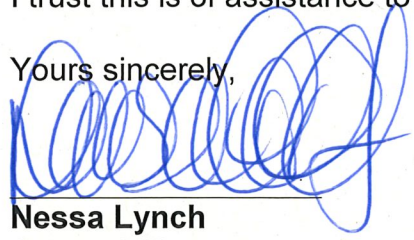
It is not the MRI that must be compatible with the pacemaker, rather, it is the pacemaker that must be designed to withstand an MRI scan without causing the implanted pacemaker to malfunction. This type of pacemaker is classified as an 'MRI conditional pacemaker system' and these have been available by certain pacemaker manufacturers since 2008.

Patients with implanted pacemakers may have an MRI scan in a HSE hospital that has a cardiologist led cardiology department and has a 1.5T MRI. However, this is very dependent on individual hospital policy. If deemed suitable, it is only under very specific conditions, as follows:

- The MRI scan is requested by a consultant.
- The patient is risk assessed for suitability.
- The implanted pacemaker is checked to determine if it is an 'MRI conditional' type pacemaker.
- Ideally, the patient would have been fitted with their MRI conditional pacemaker in the hospital where the MRI scan is to be performed.
- The patient is required to first have a chest x-ray to check if there is a break in the pacemaker cable as broken cables will induce currents during an MRI scan that cause heating to the surrounding tissue.
- A cardiac technician must present to switch the pacemaker to MRI safe mode for the duration of the scan and switch it back to normal mode after the scan.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Nessa Lynch', written over a horizontal line.

Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Acute Operations