

SAFE WORK PROCEDURE (SWP)

Workplace: NeuRA Imaging

Page: 1 of 3

TASK/OPERATION: Magnetic Resonance Safety – MR Safety: Infection Control (SWP08)

Operating Procedure Developed by: Brendan Moran and Caroline Rae

Approved: Prof Caroline Rae **Date:** 22/11/2023

Purpose:

- The purpose of this document is to ensure that all users of the facility understand the importance of prevention and control of infection in NeuRA Imaging's MRI environment.
- To outline procedures that users and facility staff must follow to promote a safe working environment to minimise the risk of contracting or spreading infections.

Rationale:

NeuRA Imaging's MRI suite is a facility that is used by multitudes of participants as well as researchers and staff, and may expose those present to the transmission of potentially infectious diseases if proper infection control procedures are not in place.

Standard precautions for infection control are the work practices that are required to achieve a basic level of infection prevention and control, and are sufficient to prevent the spread of infectious agents in this environment.

The procedures in this document attempt to ensure the health and well-being of participants and staff in the MRI environment.

Procedures:

Standard precautions to be followed in NeuRA Imaging consist of the following practices:

- Hand hygiene before and after all participant contact. Handwashing with soap and water is the best practice as it removes all dirt, microbes and chemicals on the hands, though hand sanitiser will effectively remove bacteria and viruses and is also appropriate in this environment.
- The use of personal protective equipment as required, which may include gloves, aprons, masks, face shields and eye protection when there is a perceived increased risk of infection, or for a vulnerable participant.
- Routine environmental cleaning. In the MRI scanning room the bore of the magnet, coils, table, buzzer, headphones and other materials used for the study are to be wiped down with Clinell universal disinfectant wipes, and in the control room desks, computers, phones, stationery, and all door handles are to be wiped down with Clinell universal disinfectant wipes as often as practicable.
- Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette are to be observed. If staff and participants are required to wear a mask then any mask worn by the participant during the MRI scan will need to be checked for MRI safety. If the mask has metal components, these will be removed.
- Appropriate handling of linen. Patient gowns, sheets and blankets are to be changed and put in the linen basket after each participant.
- The safe use and disposal of sharps.
- The use of aseptic "non-touch" technique for all invasive procedures, including appropriate use of skin disinfectants.
- Proper waste management.
- Single use ear plugs for all participants and staff who need to be in the scanning room during an MRI sequence need to be disposed of immediately after use.

Participants or staff that have a fever, sore throat, breathing difficulties and/or cold and flu like symptoms or have been recently exposed to known cases of COVID-19 are not to attend on site.

Relevant Personnel:

- MRI Radiographer – Brendan Moran – Ext. 1110 – Mobile: 0478493698
- NeuRA Imaging Director – Caroline Rae – Ext. 1211 – Mobile: 0407467677
- NeuRA Facilities Manager – Matt Grenfell – Ext. 1821
- Research Governance and Compliance Manager – Deborah McKay – Ext. 1676
- Philips Customer Support – 1800251400

Codes of Practice/Standards:

- Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care: Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infections in Healthcare Report 2023:
 - <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/australian-guidelines-prevention-and-control-infection-healthcare>
- The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists:
 - <https://www.ranzcr.com/search/ranzcr-mri-safety-guidelines>
 - <https://www.ranzcr.com/our-work/quality-standards>

Emergency Procedures:

- Magnetic Resonance Safety – Incidents (SWP03)
- Magnetic Resonance Safety – Emergencies (SWP04)
- NeuRA Incident Report & Investigation Procedure (WHS31)
<https://intranet.neura.edu.au/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=6848643&preview=%2F6848643%2F19824750%2FWHS31+Incident+Report+%26+Investigation+Procedure+v2.0.pdf>
- NeuRA First Aid Procedure (WHS20)
<https://intranet.neura.edu.au/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=6848643&preview=%2F6848643%2F16450180%2FWHS20+FirstAid+Procedure.pdf>
- Follow NeuRA Emergency Procedures Flipchart 2018 located near the MRI control room phone or on NeuRA Intranet
<https://intranet.neura.edu.au/download/attachments/6062404/Emergency%20Procedures%20Flip%20Chart-2021.pdf?api=v2>