

	<b>POLICY #: Rad Policy 14.2.4</b>
<b>SUBJECT: After hours or On call</b>	<b>Effective: 10/1/2018 Revised 02/2019</b>
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**PURPOSE:** To establish guidelines necessary to provide Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) procedures outside regular working hours, on weekends and holidays.

It is the policy of the MRI section to provide on-call coverage for MRI services after regular working hours, on weekends, and on official University Health-Shreveport holidays. University Health-Shreveport provides care for critically ill patients, provides Level 1 trauma services and provides emergency care in a very busy emergency care center (ER). Situations will occur in which MR imaging is needed on an urgent/emergent basis. When an MRI procedure is requested outside regular working hours, the following guidelines should be followed by the in-house Radiology resident to expedite imaging and ensure patient safety:

It is the responsibility of the referring physician to contact the on-call Radiology resident regarding the need for any urgent/emergent MRI procedure.

Indications for urgent/emergent MRI procedures include:

- Suspected spinal cord compression
- Traumatic myelopathy with acute neurological deficits
- Dural venous sinus thrombosis with intermediate CTV results
- Stroke not confirmed on CT

The referring physician should be informed during the initial contact period that departmental policy requires that a completed MRI questionnaire must be provided before the MRI tech can be called in for the procedure. The completed questionnaire is required to prevent unnecessary delays in moving patients into the MR suite and to prevent unnecessary MRI tech call-in for patients who have contraindications to MR imaging. Once the Radiology resident has verified the appropriate indication for the emergent MRI, he/she should then immediately have the hospital operator notify the MRI tech that they are needed to perform an exam.

The MRI Technologist has 1 hour to arrive at the hospital to start the exam unless another time has been approved by Radiology resident.

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