

# ADVANCED MRI Technology

## OUR PROMISE

You will find only high-strength  
MRI machines at all Shields centers.

Shields uses only top-tier MRI equipment from GE, Siemens and Philips, the leading manufacturers of advanced imaging technology.

- **1.5T open-bore MRI:** Our 1.5T high-field open-bore MRI machine is faster than lower-strength machines and can produce higher-quality images. The machine can accommodate patients up to 500 pounds and offers a comfortable, wide opening that helps ease patient anxiety.
- **Artificial intelligence:** We're taking the MRI experience to the next level through the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI technology is integrated into the MRI and works in the background, reducing noise and artifacts to deliver consistently clearer, crisper images – in significantly less time. AI is able to dramatically improve the results of orthopedic, neurologic and prostate exams, all while reducing the amount of time in the scanner.

## Our MRI machines include the following features:

- Weight allowance of up to 500 pounds
- Two-way speakers for ongoing communication with your technologist
- Comfortable mattress with head support
- Faster scan times than lower-strength MRI machines

For an MRI price estimate, try our  
savings calculator on [shields.com](https://shields.com).



## Shields MRI at Heywood Hospital

242 Green St.  
Gardner, MA 01440

### HOURS

Monday – Friday: 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Interactive directions can be found on  
[shields.com](https://shields.com), using Google Maps.

Thank you for choosing  
**Shields MRI at Heywood Hospital**  
for your MRI services.



We look forward to seeing you  
for your appointment.

You are scheduled for an MRI scan at  
**Shields MRI at Heywood Hospital**  
242 Green St., Gardner, MA 01440

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

a.m. p.m.

### Need to reschedule?

If you need to reschedule your visit, please call our scheduling department at 1-800-258-4674. To avoid a fee, please call at least 24 hours in advance of your appointment.



# MRI Exam Information and Preparation



## What Is MRI?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) systems allow medical professionals to “see” the inside of the body. With MRI images, physicians can easily identify areas of treatment, track progress and rule out serious problems with greater speed and accuracy than ever before. An MRI scan involves no surgery, no radiation and no hospitalization, and it has no known side effects.

## Preparing for Your MRI

Please plan on arriving at least 20 minutes before your scheduled appointment to allow time for insurance paperwork and patient screening with an MRI technologist. Please bring any prior exam images and lab work to your appointment.

A few things can ensure your safety and comfort in the MRI environment:

- We ask all patients to change into a hospital gown for their MRI.
- When possible, leave jewelry and other valuables at home.
- Remove any patch medications or any external mechanical devices, or let us know if you’ve been medically instructed not to.

If you are having an arthrogram scan, please visit [www.shields.com](http://www.shields.com) for details on exam preparation.

## Safety Information

While MRI is extremely safe, because of the magnetic strength of the machine, certain patients with metal in their bodies or implants cannot be scanned. If you have a device, implant or condition listed below, it may interfere with your MRI. Please contact us immediately, and we will make special arrangements if possible.

- Cardiac pacemaker
- Prosthetic heart valve
- Surgical clip, bone/joint replacement or any metallic implant
- External mechanical device
- A current or previous job in a metalworking industry or one in which you may have had exposure to metallic dust or splinters
- Suffered a shrapnel wound
- Metallic chips or splinters in the eye
- Are pregnant or think you might be
- Weigh more than 300 pounds
- Suffer from claustrophobia

## During the MRI Exam

Once in the exam room, you’ll recline comfortably on a cushioned table and your exam will begin. Depending on what information your doctor needs, your MRI scan may require the use of an intravenously injected contrast, that will show certain structures in your body. If prescribed, this contrast will be administered by a specially trained technologist. You will be in constant communication with your technologist throughout the entire exam.

As the MRI scanner obtains each series of images, you will hear persistent buzzing and thumping noises, but at no time should you experience any physical sensation or discomfort. You may wear earplugs or listen to music during your exam if you wish.

During the exam, all you have to do is lie still and follow the technologist’s instructions. MRI is very sensitive to motion. Even the slightest movement can distort the image and limit its diagnostic value. It is important that you remain as still as possible during your scan.

Most MRI exams last 20 to 40 minutes, although some can last up to an hour. After your MRI, you may resume other daily activities.

## Obtaining Your Results

All MRI images are interpreted by a radiologist, a doctor who specializes in reading MRI images. Within a few days of your exam, the radiologist will contact your physician with the results of your study. Your physician will then contact you to discuss your results and, if necessary, prescribe treatment. Your physician is the only person authorized to discuss your results with you.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 1-800-258-4674 or visit [www.shields.com](http://www.shields.com).