

MRI and CT Scans



Children'sSM
Healthcare of Atlanta

Guidelines for sedation

Below are our basic guidelines for sedation when referring a patient for a MRI or CT scan at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. If you have questions, call the pre-screening team at **404-785-2483** (Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or **404-785-DOCS (3627)**.

MRI

8-week, full-term infants to age 6

Patients will be evaluated for sedation by the pre-screening team.

Children ages 7 and older

Sedation will be determined by the length and complexity of the scan as well as the following:

- Is the child autistic? Yes No
- Does the child have developmental delays? Yes No
- Does the child have tics, Tourette's or involuntary movement? Yes No
- Can the child follow directions? Yes No

Most children ages 7 and older are encouraged to attempt the scan without sedation. Children who are awake during the scan can watch a movie on our special movie screen. Children are encouraged to bring their favorite DVD.

Adolescents

If the ordering physician and/or parent feels as though the teenager will only need a mild sedative, please write them a prescription for an anxiolytic when ordering the scan.

CT

Infants < 6 months

- Most infants \leq 3 months are excellent candidates for the feed and bundle technique. Pre-term infants may be more successful.
- The success rate for the feed and bundle technique decreases significantly for infants $>$ 3 months and is not recommended for infants $>$ 6 months.

Infants > 6 months to age 5

- If the scan is performed with contrast, the child will require sedation.
- If the scan is performed with Orbit, Sella or Ear, the child will require sedation for quality imaging.

Children ages 6 and older

Children ages 6 and older can complete most CT scans—with and without contrast—without sedation unless the child has a developmental delay or autism.