

MRI Price Shopping Worksheet from Shields MRI

Use this chart to track quality & price comparisons between providers. We've checked off the areas where Shields offers the measurement for quality, comfort and convenience to jump start your search, but encourage you to **call our Patient Financial Services Team with any questions & your customized out-of-pocket estimate: 1-877-712-3075.**

First, record the exam information. You can find this on your written order form or request it from your referring doctor. When asking for price information from any MRI provider, you will need the information below:

Exam type: _____ Includes Contrast: YES NO

CPT code: _____ Insurance Carrier: _____

	Shields MRI	Provider B	Provider C	Explanation
COST INFORMATION				
Global price				Most Shields centers provide one (global) bill. Hospital providers often break out the technical & professional fees.
Professional price				The professional price is the cost for the radiologist to interpret the scan.
Technical price				The technical fee covers the overall cost of care including the time on the MRI scanner.
QUALITY MEASURES				
ACR accreditation	√			The American College of Radiology (ACR) sets strict safety guidelines. Every Shields center is ACR accredited.
Online access to reports & images for your doctor	√			Your doctor requires access to your MRI report & images. Shields provides online access for every doctor in the country.
Report turnaround time within 24 hours	√			Your doctor should receive your results within 24 hours to enable the quickest treatment plan. Shields provides 24 hour turnaround time - sooner if there is urgency.
1.5T or 3T high-field MRI (with open options)	√			1.5T high-field technology is the gold standard in MRI. Lower strength like 1.2T, 1.0T or lower can compromise image quality & may result in a repeat scan. Shields guarantees you will not find a low-strength MRI in our network.
Sub-specialized radiologists	√			Radiologists are responsible for interpreting your MRI scan and reporting findings to your doctor. Sub-specialized radiologists specialize in one area of the body. For example, a neurologist is specialized in reading brain MRIs, an important quality measure.
COMFORT & CONVENIENCE MEASURES				
Open bore, 1.5T MRI Scanners	√			If you are anxious over tight spaces, look for an open MRI that offers a wide bore & high weight capacity. It's important you don't compromise quality for comfort; be sure the MRI is of 1.5T strength or higher. Shields offers 17 open MRI scanners.
Convenient locations & hours	√			You should be able to get to your MRI appointment quickly and be seen fast. Shields has 27 locations in MA: one in NH that offer same and next day appointments.
Flexible payment options	√			If you are on a high-deductible plan or your insurance doesn't cover your MRI, you may want to ask about payment plans.

For an appointment at Shields MRI, call 1-800-258-4674. It's easy to tell your doctor you choose Shields MRI, visit shields.com and download our referral form.