



ACC GP Referred MRI

A programme by **WellSouth**

Last updated: 1/07/2025

Intended Purpose

The purpose of the ACC General Practice Referred MRI (GPMRI) service is to allow patients whose knee, lumbar (L-Spine) or neck (C-Spine) injuries meet specific clinical criteria, to be directly referred for an MRI by trained General Practitioners (GPs) and Nurse Practitioners (NPs). This removes the need for patients to visit a specialist before they can access MRI and reduces the time from first assessment to diagnosis.

HealthPathways Link: <https://southern.communityhealthpathways.org/568631.htm>

Restrictions

This service can only be provided by vocationally registered General Practitioners, Nurse Practitioners, and by doctors working in a general practice setting.

To refer under this service, Doctors and NPs must have completed an ACC approved GP MRI training programme from WellSouth or another contracted PHN and be working in a WellSouth affiliated practice.

A GP Registrar can be included as long as they complete the GP MRI training, and work in a practice with an ACC MRI trained GP available to oversee their work.

Patient Eligibility Criteria

- 16 years of age or over.
- Able to provide informed consent for the referral (or this can be provided by the person who has the legal right to make decisions on the client's behalf).
- Has an approved ACC claim no older than 6 months.
- Has been assessed by the trained practitioner as meeting the clinical criteria for the relevant clinical pathway.

Exclusions

- Patients with claims managed by *Accredited Employers* are NOT eligible for this programme.

Payment Rates

\$162.07 + GST ACC GP MRI Post-MRI Consult and Claim

- Claimed and paid on completion of the package of care.
- The initial assessment and referral to MRI generates a zero value claim.
- A standard ACC charge and patient co-payment is applied to this initial assessment and referral.
- No co-payment can be charged for the post MRI consult and claim.
- Claiming must be completed via the portal at the time of post MRI consult to obtain payment for this service.

Initial consult/GP MRI Referral

The initial assessment of the condition against the GP MRI Clinical Guidelines will be deemed to be part of a standard consultation and billed to ACC and the patient in the usual way.

Confirm patient meets clinical criteria for referral.

The GP/NP refers to an ACC contracted High Tech Imaging Supplier (HTIS) via the WellSouth PHN Portal. Referrals are reviewed before going to HTIS and are subject to audit.

ACC GP Referred MRI [New Referral](#)

The HTIS will then contact the patient to arrange an appointment for the procedure.

Post MRI Consult and Claim

No co-payment can be charged to the patient for relaying the results of the MRI and the joint development of the proposed management plan and agreed next steps for the patient, this includes all forms of contact (face-to-face, phone, telehealth).

This should occur within 7-14 days of the GP receiving the MRI report (14 days face-to-face, otherwise 7 days).

Treatment, Rehabilitation and follow up care

Once the GP/NP has confirmed a plan for the patient, they will make the necessary arrangements for on-referral, either escalating to specialist, an escalated care pathway or de-escalating to rehabilitation services such as physiotherapy.

Claiming

Claiming is via the WellSouth PHN portal on completion of the post MRI consult and represents the entire fee claimable for this service.

ACC GP Referred MRI [New Post-MRI Consult and Claim](#) Referral Status: Approved (automated)
Referral Date: 05 Mar 2025

Service codes for your PMS

Please set these up prior to using the programme.

Code	Amount (incl. GST)	Description
WPGMRI	\$ 186.38	ACC GP MRI Post Referral

If your PMS is aligned to the WellSouth Clinical BCTIs, please contact practicenetwork@wellsouth.org.nz with your new Account Internal ID.

For further information regarding this programme please contact practicenetwork@wellsouth.org.nz or your Primary Care Relationship Manager. For clinical enquiries please contact the clinical lead, Richard.macharg@wellsouth.org.nz.