

SETTING

Hospital Ward

PATIENT

You are in your late thirties. You are up to the final stage of an investigation for chronic back pain. Now you need an MRI scan – one where you go into a big tube. You suffer from claustrophobia and are very frightened about this scan. You are leaving the city on a trip to celebrate your birthday tomorrow.

TASK

- Give some (invented) personal details (e.g., name/date of birth/address) if the radiographer checks.
- Ask how long the scan will take (will you feel well tomorrow)?
- Tell the radiographer about your claustrophobia and find out if there are any ways to make the experience less stressful (you've heard the scanning machine is noisy too).
- Finally consent to the procedure, selecting one of the options offered.

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RADIOGRAPHER

This nervous patient in his/her late thirties has already had other investigations for chronic back pain.

Examination required: MRI

TASK

- Check the patient's identity.
- Check that he/she knows why he/she is having the scan and what it involves.
- Discuss any concerns with the patient fully and provide reassurance (e.g., explain that you can provide earplugs for noise, non-magnetic earphones and music, even sedation, if required).