

Imaging for out of town patients

Do I need imaging before scheduling my PRP or BMAC (stem cell) treatment?

Yes. In absence of a hands-on physical exam, the best way for the practitioner to predict which treatment to schedule is to view imaging. If there is no imaging, and no physical exam, there is no way to determine appropriate medical treatment.

Is a MRI or x-ray needed?

MRI scans are preferred over x-rays. X-rays view only the bony structures and give limited information. MRI imaging gives the most information, because it shows the condition of soft structures (ligaments, tendons, spinal discs, and cartilage).

Can I get imaging done at CHARM?

CHARM refers imaging out to an advanced imaging center. We do not have x-ray or MRI equipment. We do have a fluoroscope, which provides x-ray imaging for injection guidance, but the resolution is not generally high enough for diagnosis.

Is imaging covered by my insurance?

The majority of insurance cover imaging; however, most insurance companies require prior authorization for a MRI. Prior authorization has guidelines that may include a history of conservative care with the prescribing practitioner for a specified number of weeks or months, as well as other requirements. Your insurance will probably require payment of a deductible or coinsurance.

Can CHARM order a MRI or x-ray in my local area?

If you have not been physically seen at CHARM as a patient, CHARM does not have any patient notes to provide for insurance authorization. These notes are required to prove the medical need for the imaging. When insurance is used for imaging, CHARM cannot provide the MRI referral.

If you plan to pay out of pocket for your imaging, CHARM can provide the imaging referral. CHARM can only provide referral for imaging centers located in the US.

How do I get my imaging to CHARM?

Please mail your imaging disc and report to CHARM at 10815 RR 2222, Bldg 3B, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78730. The doctor will want to see the imaging report as well as actual imaging. MRI results cannot be emailed because of the large file size and because of HIPAA restrictions preventing imaging disc copying/ sharing.