

Imaging department redevelopment: your questions answered

What's happening?

The imaging department – also known as the [radiology department](#) – at the Royal Free Hospital is undergoing a major redevelopment over the next two years.

This redevelopment includes replacing three MRI scanners with new state of the art equipment, upgrading five interventional radiology and cardiology units (IRCUs) and installing a new gamma camera and SPECT/CT scanner.

Why is this being done?

To ensure we can provide the very best imaging services to patients. Once in place, the new facilities will help us to see more patients, reduce waiting times and allow staff to deliver high quality diagnostic services using the latest equipment.

How long will the redevelopment take?

The first phase of the redevelopment starts in October 2019 with the replacement of the MRI scanners, and is expected to last until autumn 2020.

Work to install the IRCU units, gamma camera and SPECT/CT scanner will begin in January 2020. The gamma camera and SPECT/CT scanner will be installed by summer 2020 and the IRCUs by winter 2020.

What impact will it have on services?

To minimise disruption while the old MRI scanners are taken apart and the new ones installed, a mobile MRI unit will be set up in the hospital's south car park from 1 September. It is expected to be in place until autumn 2020. Some patients will have their MRI performed in this unit during this time – more information is available [here](#). To accommodate this unit, approximately 16 parking spaces will be temporarily closed.

A contingency plan is being developed to minimise the impact of the IRCU upgrades on services from January 2020. More information will be available soon.

[Nuclear medicine](#) services will be unaffected by the improvement works.

Where do I go for my MRI scan?

Your appointment letter will tell you where your MRI scan is taking place. If your scan is taking place in the mobile MRI unit, your letter will also include directions to the unit. These directions are [also available online](#) and hospital staff and volunteers will be on hand to direct you if you are not sure where to go.

How many patient and visitor parking spaces are available in the south car park?

There are currently 46 patient and visitor spaces available in the south car park.

Will there be enough patient and visitor parking?

We can't guarantee parking for patients and visitors but we are hopeful the temporary loss of spaces will not lead to significant problems. We would encourage patients and visitors to [use public transport](#) or drop off/set down facilities instead of car parking, but we recognise this isn't always possible.

What about the parking for the haemophilia centre?

Parking spaces for the haemophilia centre will be unaffected.

What's the impact on staff parking?

Staff parking will be unaffected. There are 93 spaces for staff permit holders in the lower south car park.

Will there be additional car parking facilities in the future?

A new patient car park with 71 spaces is expected to open at the [Pears Building](#) in late 2020. At this point, the south car park will be closed to patient access.

Will the redevelopment works have any effects on the local area?

While we will do our best to keep any disruption to a minimum, there are likely to be some effects on traffic and potential noise disruption while the works are carried out. We will provide updates about this on our website and social media channels where necessary.

Where can I find more information?

Updates on the redevelopment programme will be available on the [trust website](#).