

## OPEN MAGNETIC RESONANCE (MRI)

### PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED

BSW ICB will only fund Open MRI scanning of greater than 0.5T as an alternative to conventional MRI in the following circumstances:

- In patients who suffer from claustrophobia where an oral, prescription sedative has not been effective (GPs are expected to support the prescription of sedatives in this situation)

**OR**

- In patients who are obese and therefore cannot fit comfortably in a conventional MRI scanner.

Standing, upright, weight-bearing, or positional MRI will not be commissioned.

Primary care must obtain funding before referring patients to secondary care providers and secondary care providers must satisfy themselves that the patient has funding secured prior to seeing the patient. This is to ensure inappropriate out-patient appointments are avoided and patient expectations are properly managed.