



2009

CERVICAL SPINE MRI CRITERIA (MEDICARE)

MRI is exam of choice for cervical spine.

Not usually indicated for:

- Uncomplicated neck pain or whiplash; **OR**
- In patients with symptoms for less than 4 weeks when there are no objective deficits; **OR**
- In patients who have not tried 4 weeks of conservative therapy such as supervised physical therapy.

Cervical Spine MRI is a covered benefit when **ONE** of the following criteria is met:

- Presence of focal neurological deficit; **OR**
- Signs and symptoms of cord compression; **OR**
- Prior EMG/nerve conduction study.