As a cochlear implant recipient, you must be aware that some medical situations and treatments, such as Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), may have impacts on your wellbeing:

**Discuss all warnings and precautions with your physician and cochlear implant surgeon before undergoing any major medical procedure.**

**Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI):**

MRI magnetic fields can generate potentially harmful forces that may cause tissue damage or demagnetize a cochlear implant magnet. The implanted magnets can also create image artifacts in head scans which can reduce an MRI’s diagnostic value.

In general, the internal magnet of the cochlear implant must be surgically removed prior to undergoing an MRI. Removal and replacement of the magnet - without the need for explantation and subsequent re-implantation - is possible with current cochlear implants. Once the magnet is removed, the cochlear implant is able to withstand an MRI of 0.3 to 1.5 Tesla, but no higher.

Older model cochlear implants may not offer a removable magnet, in which case an MRI is contraindicated. It is important to determine whether your specific cochlear implant is considered MRI compatible prior to undergoing this type of procedure.

The patient must take off the processor before entering a room where an MRI scanner is located. In addition, all cochlear implant users should undergo the proper head wrapping procedure prior to the MRI scan.

To determine the specifications of your cochlear implant, please visit the manufacturer website:

- www.cochlear.com
- www.medel.com
- www.advancedbionics.com

Questions or concerns, please contact:
jpisa@hsc.mb.ca or visit umanitoba.ca/faculties/medicine/units/otolaryngology/