

Get medical attention right away if you have:

- Vomiting
- Headaches
- Personality changes
- Fatigue (feeling unusually tired or weak)
- Trouble staying awake
- Loss of balance
- Swelling or redness along your shunt path

These may be signs that your shunt is not working properly.

If not treated, these can cause severe neurological problems or even death.

Notes: _____



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

I have a shunt to treat hydrocephalus.

The type of shunt I have is:

- VP shunt**
 - Nonprogrammable** (fixed pressure):
 - Low Medium High
 - Programmable** (adjustable):
Manufacturer/Type: _____
Pressure Setting: _____
- VA shunt**
- Other:** _____

Implant date: _____

MRI scanners may change the setting of your programmable shunt. The shunt may need to be reprogrammed after each MRI.

*Ask your neurosurgeon if your shunt needs to be checked and reprogrammed after MRI scans.

Notes: _____

Before your MRI:

Arrange for shunt reprogramming after your MRI if needed.

On the day of your MRI:

Tell the MRI staff that you have a programmable VP shunt.

The shunt should be reprogrammed within **4 hours** after your MRI.

Do not have the MRI if no one is available to reprogram your shunt.

Hydrocephalus with shunt
Name: _____
Neurosurgeon: _____
Neurosurgeon's Phone: _____
My MSK doctor can be reached at 212-639-2000.

Emergency contact
Name: _____
Relation: _____
Phone: _____