

Get medical attention right away if you have:

- Vomiting (throwing up)
- 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 (nerve) problems or even death.

Notes: _____



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

MEDICAL EMERGENCY INFORMATION

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 VP shunt.

Your 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.

Your 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: _____