

# 5 Standards to Expect and Demand for Sustainable MRI Coil Repairs

Even perfect vision may not be enough to know if you are getting an MRI coil repair that will enable your MRI to perform as intended, and one that will produce long-lasting accuracy. Knowing which lens from which to view MRI coil repairs can make all the difference in sustainability and operational costs.

Following are some questions to ask and things to consider about MRI coil repair processes and options to help assure you make wise, informed decisions you, your team, and your patients can live with.

**① Cable Harnesses:** Are damaged cables replaced or are they spliced? Replacing costs more, however; the longevity of the repair and life extension of the coil more than compensate for the extra money and help to lower the overall cost of ownership. Spliced cables can fail more often as they can separate over time, meaning more frequent repairs, more down time and potentially more performance issues. Sustainable processes replace cable harnesses versus splicing and results in higher first-time fix rates.

**② Testing methods:** Simplistic testing often fails to find additional issues affecting coil performance. Look for modular testing methods which break down the system and test each section to the component level assuring the whole system is functioning optimally. Ask too if and how they can find potential hidden electrical issues or if they perform predictive maintenance.

**③ Source of mechanical parts:** Are the mechanical parts used in your repair sourced from soft molding and machining or 3D printing? While 3D printing can increase speed and accessibility, this method of production does not always hold up over time as effectively as molding and machining. It's critical to know how these parts are sourced for your repairs as they can affect the longevity of the repair, and ultimately the cost of ownership and downtime associated with short-term vs. long-term repairs.



**④ Inspection processes:** You should know if the supplier tears apart the cable or uses a less or non-invasive method to inspect the quality and condition of each coil. Look for procedures such as those used at the Innovatus MRI Center of Excellence that provides the option to use an x-ray device to view cabling structures and avoid unnecessary disassembly of cables. Invasive procedures can increase the risk of other failures and extend the time for triage and repair.

**⑤ Foundation of repair processes:** What experience, research and processes are behind the repair? More important than price differential is the experience differential among providers. Low price, low experience is a sure combination for low quality. Ask how many years providers have been repairing the make and model you need repaired, and what depth of knowledge the team brings to the process vs. basic certifications and skill levels. Companies that continually research and test new methods and bring manufacturing mindsets to the process are more likely to produce sustainable repairs which boost your operating ROI.

With a core team that once manufactured MRI coils, and a major repair provider for all makes and models for more than 25 years, Innovatus Imaging has maintained one of the strongest records and reputations industry-wide for success and proven longevity for all types of repairs they complete.

**Why This Matters:** MRI coil repair processes are not created equal. Because the barrier to enter the repair provider market is low, there are wide variances in quality produced by suppliers. A low-quality repair not only puts your coils back in the repair queue, they increase your down time, decrease patient access to diagnostic care, jeopardize customer relationships, and not least, elevate your operational costs. Entrusting repairs with proven providers that might be slightly higher in price or turn time usually pays off big dividends for patient care and ROI.

More details about these issues and other considerations for optimizing MRI repair outcomes for your inventory can be found in a report about Centers of Excellence for Imaging Device repairs available at [www.innovatusimaging.com](http://www.innovatusimaging.com). You can also obtain a copy of this in-depth paper by contacting [info@innovatusimaging.com](mailto:info@innovatusimaging.com).