

NEW Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) unit launched in Dauphin Frequently asked questions

On December 17, an event was held in partnership with the Province of Manitoba and Prairie Mountain Health to formally unveil the new MRI unit at Dauphin Regional Health Centre (DRHC).

Below are a series of frequently asked questions about the new MRI.

- **When will patient scheduling start for an MRI in Dauphin?**
Early patient scheduling for an MRI began on November 26, moving patient appointments from Brandon Regional Health Centre (BRHC) to Dauphin. Regular patient scheduling began on December 10.
- **What type of patient scans will be performed in Dauphin?**
Common types of patient scans scheduled at DRHC will include scans performed on the head, spine, extremities, abdominal, and musculoskeletal.
- **Why are some patients still being scheduled for scans in Brandon or Winnipeg??**
Some patients have elected to access care in Brandon and/or Winnipeg as they have other appointments scheduled at that time.

Also depending on the nature of presenting clinical conditions, certain scans will continue to be available in Winnipeg or Brandon. For example, cardiac or breast scans due to their specialized nature. Because of this and the lower volumes of these scans, the decision was made to continue scheduling these types of appointments in Brandon or Winnipeg.

- **Is the MRI team in Dauphin fully staffed?**
Yes. We have two MRI Technologists who are fully trained and credentialed to operate the unit. A third Technologist position will be posted in the New Year to complement the expected increase in service as we reach full operations.

All staff have extensive training and experience and are fully qualified to manage the safety requirements in operating the machine.

Technologists take specialized training for one year but also need a prerequisite of a two year diploma in medical imaging.

- **How much did the entire capital/construction cost?**
The approximate cost of building construction and required renovations was \$3.8 million.

- **What was the cost of the unit?**
The cost of the MRI was approximately \$2.4 million.
- **How many patients are expected to be scanned in Dauphin?**
It's estimated that the MRI will perform approximately 3,500 scans per year when fully operational.
- **What will the wait times be to get an appointment for an MRI in Dauphin? What are the current wait times in the province to get a MRI appointment?**
The appropriate use of the MRI in Dauphin is expected to add 3,500 MRI exams per year into the health system.

Appointment volumes will slowly increase over the first several weeks of operations. It is expected to be at full service in the New Year at which time we should have a better idea of demand and potential wait times.

- **What are the current wait times in the province to get a MRI appointment?**
The work being done through the province's overall health system transformation has reduced wait times for Manitobans to receive an MRI by 30 per cent. The average wait time to receive an MRI in the province is 16 weeks (as of July 2018).
- **How will this MRI reduce wait times?**
The additional MRI will build upon the success we have already experienced in tackling MRI wait times across the province. It's also expected to reduce travel time for local Manitobans so they can receive this diagnostic service much closer to home.

If you have any further questions related to the MRI, its unveiling and appointment scheduling, please contact info@sharedhealthmb.ca.

For interview requests, please contact:

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