



NEWS RELEASE

from Halton Healthcare Services

For Immediate Release

February 20, 2012

Halton Healthcare Services Adds a Second MRI at OTMH

Residents of Oakville and the surrounding communities are already benefitting from the recent addition of a mobile Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine at Halton Healthcare Services' (HHS) Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH). HHS was approved for the operation of a second MRI at OTMH in June of 2011 by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The healthcare facility has since partnered with DMS Health Technologies Canada to lease a mobile MRI for the interim period until the hospital relocates to the New Oakville Hospital facility in late fall of 2015. This second unit will play a key role in reducing wait times and ensuring that the residents of Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills have improved access to MRIs.

"Magnetic Resonance technology is one of the most sophisticated technologies we have in medicine today," explains Dr. Robert Yu, Chief/ Medical Director, HHS Diagnostic Imaging Department. "It is the best diagnostic tool to evaluate soft tissue injuries and to diagnose diseases. For this reason, it is imperative that our HHS communities have expedient and local access to this vital diagnostic service."

"The addition of a second MRI at OTMH will increase our capacity so we can be more responsive to the needs of our growing communities. It will make it easier for those who need an MRI scan to get tested, diagnosed and treated, more quickly and closer to home," notes Allan Halls, HHS Vice President, Support Services. "Once again we commend and thank the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for their foresight in providing our hospital with the funds to operate a second MRI."

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Housed in a trailer alongside the hospital's Emergency Entrance area, the mobile MRI is scheduled to operate 40 hours a week (eight hours a day, five days a week, Monday to Friday), and will be used primarily to scan ambulatory or mobile patients. The mobile unit will be in place for the next three and a half years at OTMH until the New Oakville Hospital opens. It will provide 3,120 additional scans every year.

“Using a leased mobile unit is a great interim solution until we relocate to the New Oakville Hospital. It has expanded our capacity and significantly increased the number of MRI Scans we can provide to better serve our communities,” explains Mr. Halls. “We then have the advantage of purchasing the most current technology in 2015 for the New Oakville Hospital - so on opening day our MRI will be fully operational with the very latest state-of-the-art equipment.”

“In the meantime, running two MRI's concurrently will help our staff in transitioning to the operations at the New Oakville Hospital,” concludes Dr. Yu. “It is really a win- win situation for everyone involved – especially our patients.”

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