



Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

New MRI To Benefit Families In Oakville Area

McGuinty Government Improving Access To Diagnostic Scans

NEWS

July 20, 2011 2011/nr-054

A new MRI machine at Halton Healthcare will soon provide local families with better access to diagnostic scans – reducing wait times and helping to identify illnesses sooner.

The new MRI is the second at the hospital corporation and will provide patients with 3,120 additional scans every year. It is scheduled to begin operating for 40 hours a week beginning Fall, 2011. The new MRI machine will make it easier for people who need an MRI scan to get tested and treated more quickly, closer to home.

Today's announcement is part of the government's plan to provide more access to health care services while improving quality and accountability for patients.

QUOTES

"This new MRI at Halton Healthcare means shorter wait times and improved patient care for the people of Oakville and surrounding communities. That's why I'm glad we're able to fund a second MRI at Halton Healthcare. I know how important this is to the Oakville community." -- Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

"The addition of a second MRI at OTMH will help to ensure that the residents of Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills have improved access to this advanced technology. It will increase our capacity to deliver better health care services for our patients and will assist in reducing the time the residents of our communities have to wait for MRI scans. I would like to extend our sincere thanks to MPP Flynn and Minister Matthews for coming to OTMH today to share this exciting news."

-- John Oliver, President and CEO, Halton Healthcare Services

"This is great news for residents in our communities in the Mississauga Halton LHIN. Today's announcement means faster diagnosis and improved access for our patients and families, which also means faster treatment, closer to home."

-- Bill MacLeod, CEO, Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Network

QUICK FACTS

- Since 2003, Ontario has committed funding to 44 MRI machines, increasing the number of MRIs operating in the province by over 50 per cent.
- The MRI machine currently operating at Halton Healthcare performs approximately 7,900 scans per year.
- Ontario has been publicly reporting wait times on MRI scans since 2005.

LEARN MORE

Visit <u>Halton Healthcare</u> and the <u>Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Network</u> online. Learn more about Ontario's <u>Wait Time Strategy</u>.