



News Release

For Immediate Release

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Georgetown Hospital CT Scanner to Begin Scanning Patients in December

Staff, physicians and volunteers at Georgetown Hospital (GH) got a head start on holiday season celebrations as they gathered to mark the official opening of the Hospital's first Computed Tomography (CT) scanner. Celebrations included a ribbon cutting ceremony that was held in the new CT Scanner Suite on Thursday, November 21, prior to the arrival of the first booked patient which is scheduled for Monday, December 2.

"Today is all about providing care closer to home. I am delighted to be standing next to this amazing piece of technology because I know how much it will improve the care we provide to our patients," said Cindy McDonell, Chief Operating Officer at Georgetown Hospital. "This has truly been a community effort and would not have been possible without the overwhelming support we have received."

Joining the festivities was Mr. Fred Helson whose generous \$1 million donation to the Georgetown Hospital Foundation's *Investing in Care – Close to Home* fundraising campaign made the purchase of the CT scanner possible.

When asked about his decision to make this significant contribution, Mr. Helson explained that, "Marg and I both had to endure the unpleasant experience of being sent to other hospitals for CT scanning. Our hospital was important in making Georgetown a self-sufficient town and as such I feel it is important for us to help keep the facility up-to-date for our doctors and staff, as well as all of the patients who come to Georgetown Hospital for care."

In recognition of this contribution, the CT scanner will be housed in the Marg and Fred Helson CT Scanner Suite which is located immediately adjacent to the new Emergency Department – ensuring easy access for Emergency staff and physicians.

CT scanning, sometimes called CAT scanning, is a non-invasive medical test that helps physicians diagnose and treat medical conditions. A CT scanner combines special x-ray equipment with sophisticated computers to produce multiple images or pictures of the inside of the body. These cross-sectional images can then be examined on a computer monitor or printed. CT scans of internal organs, bone, soft tissue and blood vessels provide greater clarity and reveal more details than regular x-ray exams.

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"The CT at Georgetown Hospital is one of the best there is. It is advanced medicine. The scanning technology is fast enough to image the beating heart with clarity. It can image the whole body in seconds and reproduce these images in three dimensions. There are multiple features that improve patient comfort and safety. Most importantly, the CT does all this while reducing radiation dose," explained Dr. Robert Yu, HHS Chief of Diagnostic Imaging. "Our Radiologist physicians and technologists will use all the features of this CT to achieve the best pictures, while using the lowest amount of radiation dose possible. This will significantly improve the care experience for the people of Georgetown."

Georgetown Hospital's brand new Siemens Somatom Definition AS+ 128 Slice CT scanner arrived on Thursday, November 7 and following installation, commissioning and extensive staff training and orientation, will begin scanning scheduled patients on Monday, December 2.

For more information about Georgetown Hospital, please visit www.haltonhealthcare.com.

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