

Keeping You Informed

Access for CT Scans in the Lower Mainland

April 27, 2023

What is happening?

There continues to be significant demand for Computed Tomography (CT) services across all Lower Mainland Medical Imaging (LMMI) sites. LMMI continues to see increased demand for inpatient and emergency imaging which is affecting our ability to perform non-urgent outpatient exams. While wait times for urgent outpatients continue to remain stable, LMMI sites are receiving more requisitions than they are able to complete.

How might this affect you?

Non-urgent outpatients wait times for CT services in the Lower Mainland are above wait time benchmarks and increasing. Some sites also have higher wait times than the Lower Mainland averages. LMMI appreciates that waiting for an exam appointment can be difficult and we are making every effort to provide more equitable and timely access.

What is being done?

To improve patient access, CT requisitions may be sent to other surrounding sites with shorter outpatient wait lists. Redistributed patients are slotted into queues at the new site based on the original requisition received date.

Regionally, Lower Mainland Medical Imaging is increasing CT capacity and has performed a record number of CTs in the past year. LMMI is implementing several strategies to support the CT workforce including net new positions, promoting General Radiography technologists, and international recruitment.

What can you do?

- **When ordering a CT scan, please ask your patient if they can visit a different site.**
- On the **Standard FHA requisition**, indicate which patients cannot travel to other sites:

<input type="checkbox"/> Not Willing to be booked at alternate hospital	Date of Birth (dd/mmm/yyyy)	Work Phone	
<input type="checkbox"/> Interpreter Needed? Language _____	Medical Plan Number	WCB / ICBC/Claim Number	
<input type="checkbox"/> MSP <input type="checkbox"/> WCB <input type="checkbox"/> ICBC <input type="checkbox"/> PATIENT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER			
<input type="checkbox"/> X-RAY	<input type="checkbox"/> ULTRASOUND	<input type="checkbox"/> CT	<input type="checkbox"/> INTERVENTIONAL PROCEDURES / ANGIO

- On the **Standard VCH requisition**, indicate which patients can travel to other sites:

Vancouver Coastal Health **MEDICAL IMAGING REQUISITION**
Promoting wellness. Ensuring care. X-Ray CT Ultrasound Echo Angiogram/Interventional Nuclear Medicine

Any Site or Specify Site: LGH or WHCC Appointment Date: _____ Time: _____

- Provide pertinent history on requisitions or in Order Entry to assist with prioritization of exams.
- **Send only one requisition to one LMMI site** (ie. do not send the same requisition to multiple sites). Duplicate requests increase workload and duplicate imaging results in unnecessary radiation exposure.
 - Please cancel requisitions that are no longer required.
 - Follow-ups on non-urgent, routine requisitions should be made after at least 6 weeks
- **Send questions or consult with a Radiologist through the RACE App** <http://www.raceconnect.ca/>
- Consult the **BC PSQC Essential Imaging Initiative** before ordering. <https://bcpsqc.ca/resources/medical-imaging/>
- Avoid duplicate requests for imaging by reviewing previous images and reports.
 - The Provincial eHealth Viewer (CareConnect) is a web portal which enables access to Provincial Electronic Health Record (EHR) and regional data. It provides authorized users with secure, view only access to integrated clinical information from a multitude of sources
 - Request an active Health Authority network account <https://enrol-careconnect.healthbc.org>

For more information

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