



News Release

May 5, 2008

Lloydminster Mobile MRI taking patients

Lloydminster... Mobile magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) service has landed at Lloydminster Hospital.

Technicians began installation of the mobile MRI unit Monday, May 5 and patients will be able to access the service on Wednesday. The unit will be in Lloydminster until May 15 and will serve the Border City on a rotational basis one week in every five. The mobile MRI will also travel to Camrose in East Central Health and to three other communities in Aspen Regional Health in Alberta. The MRI unit will be in Lloydminster again in early June.

“Introduction of the mobile MRI service means residents in the Lloydminster area now have access to the latest medical diagnostic technology without having to travel,” said Jim Saunders, co-Official Administrator for ECH.

“We are pleased to partner with East Central Health to bring this valuable diagnostic service to Lloydminster and area residents on both sides of the border,” said Prairie North Health Region CEO David Fan. “We thank ECH for inviting us to participate in this important initiative.”

The cost of the mobile MRI unit was \$4,525,000, with annual operating costs estimated at approximately \$1.3 million. All operating costs will be shared on a percentage of use basis between Aspen, East Central, and Prairie North respectively. The partnership improves access to quality health services, and all regions are proud of this innovative collaboration.

Magnetic resonance imaging is a method of looking inside the body using magnetism and radio waves to produce clearer pictures of the head, spine, and other parts of the body. The MRI produces soft-tissue images and is used to distinguish normal, healthy soft tissue from diseased tissue.

- 30 -

Media enquiries may be directed to:

East Central Health
Shelley Rattray
Phone: (780) 608-8804
E-mail: shelley.rattray@ech.ab.ca

Prairie North Health Region
Linda Lewis
Phone: (306) 446-6625
E-mail: linda.lewis@pnrha.ca