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RVH REDUCES WAIT TIMES FOR DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING SCANS

In keeping with Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre's intense focus of high-quality, timely patient care, the health targeted ways to reduce wait times for CT and MRI scans. With an investment of \$700,000 in 2015-16, the wait times for these critical diagnostic imaging scans are now well below the provincial average.

"We know waiting for a scan that may provide diagnoses to a number of health issues, injuries and cancers can be a very stressful and unsettling time," says Dr. Chris Guest, chief of Imaging Services. "By reducing these wait times, we are not only alleviating stress for the patient and their families, but it allows us to get the patient on the most appropriate treatment path in a timelier fashion."

As a result of the investment RVH was able to perform 7,600 additional scans above provincially-funded levels in 2016-17, significantly reducing wait times. The wait for an MRI dropped to just 45 days, from 159 days last October. The wait for a CT scan at RVH is just 15 days. Provincial averages are 102 for an MRI and 50 for a CT scan.

To ensure RVH can continue to keep wait times at or below provincial average, the health centre will continue to work with the provincial government on a long-term, sustainable funding solution to ensure quick access to these important diagnostic scans in the future.

"We are buoyed by these tremendous results, but now we have to find a way to sustain this level of service," says Janice Skot, RVH president and CEO. "These shorter wait times and levels of service need to be the norm for patients in North Simcoe Muskoka and we intend to explore every opportunity to make this a reality."

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