



Faster X-Ray Results for Snow Lake Community

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SNOW LAKE – The installation of a Computed Radiography (CR) unit in Snow Lake's diagnostic imaging (DI) facility has improved diagnostic imaging service delivery, allowing Snow Lake and area residents to learn the results of their x-ray scans sooner.

Funded with \$318,000 from Manitoba Health, the new equipment shows the province's support of DSM as well as its commitment to residents of the NOR-MAN community.

"We continue to make significant investments in the most up-to-date medical equipment to make sure all Manitobans have access to the high-quality care they need," said Health Minister Theresa Oswald. "This investment in Snow Lake will enhance health care in the community, closer to home for patients."

A Diagnostic Services of Manitoba (DSM) initiative provided the Snow Lake facility with the CR unit, which facilitates the electronic distribution of diagnostic images across DSM facilities within the NOR-MAN region. The unit is connected with DSM's imaging facility in The Pas, allowing x-ray images to be sent to and read by the Radiologist in The Pas via the Provincial Data Network (PDN).

"Filmless imaging operations will greatly benefit Snow Lake," said Judy Black, DSM Regional Diagnostic Manager. "Immediate communication from Snow Lake to the Radiologist in The Pas means patients will get the results of their x-ray sooner and faster turn around time means better patient care."

The Picture Archive and Communication System (PACS) was installed in The Pas in 2005 to store the filmless images. The upgrade in Snow Lake follows the 2006 installation of a CR in Flin Flon and the 2007 installation of a CR in The Pas, completing NOR-MAN's filmless imaging network. As the first region in Manitoba to be completely filmless, NOR-MAN is well-positioned for the future provincial Radiology Information System/Picture Archive and Communication System (RIS/PACS) implementation, which will facilitate province-wide sharing of diagnostic images.

As part of this same filmless initiative, a new state-of-the-art x-ray unit has been installed in Snow Lake. The x-ray room underwent extensive renovations over the summer to accommodate the new unit, which officially opened September 24.

The new x-ray unit provides improved image detail and is a benefit to both patients and imaging technologists. An elevating table makes it easier for patients to get on and the additional space in the renovated x-ray suite provides sufficient room for patients on stretchers and in wheelchairs.

"Snow Lake is now fully integrated into our regional diagnostic imaging system. The new equipment upgrades and faster turn around times for diagnosis will result in better service to the residents of Snow Lake," said Drew Lockhart, NOR-MAN RHA CEO.

DSM is the not-for-profit corporation responsible for all of Manitoba's public laboratory and rural diagnostic imaging services. As an important part of DSM's provincial network, Snow Lake's imaging facility is one of 77 sites working collaboratively to provide high-quality, state-of-the-art lab and imaging services to Manitoba's diagnostic customers. DSM's commitment to diagnostic excellence means facilitating access to quality lab and imaging services at all DSM sites across Manitoba.

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