

## **DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING SERVICES IN SASKATCHEWAN 2006/07 BACKGROUND**

Improved access to diagnostic imaging services continues to be a provincial priority. Significant funding has been invested to increase the province's diagnostic imaging capacity and ensure patients receive timely service. In 2006-07, the provincial government provided \$4.8 million to support improvements to diagnostic imaging equipment. This funding was used to upgrade and replace aging equipment to make it compatible with requirements of the Picture Archiving Communication System (PACS).

Saskatchewan is improving its capacity to provide diagnostic imaging services through initiatives that include the following:

- purchase of a new MRI to replace the unit at Royal University Hospital;
- funding for renovations for Saskatchewan's 5<sup>th</sup> MRI, at St. Paul's Hospital;
- upgrading of the cardiac catheterization lab in Saskatoon;
- replacement of aging and inefficient diagnostic imaging equipment;
- implementation of radiology information technology; and
- support of the Diagnostic Imaging Network's provincial plan for services.

### **Number of Exams: MRI, CT, BMD**

<b>Test</b>	<b>2003-04</b>	<b>2004-05</b>	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>Increase over last year</b>
<b>MRI</b>	12,732	16,113	19,618	21,905	12%
<b>CT</b>	82,988	90,658	105,101	125,892	20%
<b>BMD</b>	N/A	9,394	10,997	14,213	29%

### **Patients Waiting**

<b>Test</b>	<b>2003-04</b>	<b>2004-05</b>	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>Change over last year</b>
<b>MRI</b>	4,822	3,174	2,786	2,154	-23%
<b>CT</b>	2,903	3,028	2,577	2,744	+6%
<b>BMD</b>	8,326	N/A	10,402	5,287	-49%

#### **FAST FACTS:**

Maximum elective MRI wait times in Regina have dropped from 43 weeks to 19, a 55% decrease. Maximum MRI wait times for elective patients in Saskatoon dropped from 30 weeks to 26 weeks.

All emergency patients receive MRIs within 24 hours; those classified as urgent receive MRIs in less than 3 weeks.

In the past year, an increase in the number of BMD tests performed resulted in wait times dropping 59% in Saskatoon and 38% in Regina. Patients in Saskatoon wait up to 6 months (down from 14.75 months a year ago), and in Regina up to 8 months (down from 13 months).