

Fact Sheet - *MRI Facilities Licensing Act*

May 6, 2015

Private delivery of health services

- The private delivery of day surgery and specialized medical imaging in Saskatchewan has helped reduce wait times and costs since being introduced by the health system in 2010.
- British Columbia and Alberta have had private MRI/CT clinics since 1993. Quebec since 1997 and Nova Scotia since 2002.
- The addition of private-pay MRIs to complement publicly funded exams provides an opportunity to expand capacity and reduce wait times.

Increased capacity

- To meet demand, capacity for MRI services has increased by about 115% since 2007. More than 33,000 patients received MRI service in 2014/15, up from 15,700 seven years ago.
- Saskatchewan has increased the number of MRI units in hospitals to four in Saskatoon and two in Regina, plus a mobile unit that visits Lloydminster. Another hospital-based MRI unit is expected to start service in Moose Jaw in 2015/16. In addition, there are two private MRI facilities located in Regina.

Patients waiting 4,000 to
for MRI services: 5,000

(Estimated, as of March 31, 2015)

MRI Wait Times in Saskatchewan, Jan.-Mar. 2015

Number of Days for 90% of Patients to Receive MRI

Urgency	Recommended	Saskatoon	Regina
Emergency	0-24 hours	Immediate	Immediate
Urgent	2-7 days	49 days	24 days
Semi-Urgent	8-30 days	178 days	153 days
Non-Urgent	31-90 days	233 days	226 days

Nine out of 10 patients received their MRI within the number of days indicated.