CT Services

How a CT scanner works

Computed tomography (CT) is an advanced method of using x-rays from multiple angles to view systems or organs in the body, often providing a three-dimensional view.

CT scans are often used to determine the extent of internal injuries after an accident or other trauma. They are commonly used to view very small bones and surrounding tissues such as muscles and blood vessels. Imaging can be used on all parts of the body to help diagnose internal issues. CT is a key tool immediately following a stroke to determine the best care options and improve chances of recovery.

The latest models of 128-slice CT scanners capture much more information at once than the 16-slice units they replace. This allows the procedures to be completed faster, with significantly less patient exposure to radiation.

More than 10,000 CT patients each year in Prairie North Health Region

About 10,600 patients received CT services in 2015-16 (11,700 exams).

CT services were first launched in North Battleford in October 2005 and Lloydminster in January 2006. These original machines are nearing the end of their expected useful life.

CT scans in 2015-16

At Battlefords Union Hospital in North Battleford:

about 5,200 patients.

At Lloydminster Hospital:

about 5,400 patients.
(half were Saskatchewan residents)

Prairie North Health Region

Medical Imaging

Government of Saskatchewan

CT Services in Saskatchewan

Computed tomography (CT) is an advanced method of using x-rays from multiple angles to view systems or organs in the body, often providing a three-dimensional view.

Since 2007-08, CT scan capacity in Saskatchewan's health system has increased by 38 per cent to almost 105,000 patients in 2015-16. During that same period, overall health system spending on medical imaging has increased by 70 per cent to $143 million.

With the addition of a new CT scanner which began operating in January at St. Joseph's Hospital in Estevan, there are now a total of 15 scanners accessible to residents of Saskatchewan, 14 of which are permanent, hospital-based CT suites.

CT service locations:
- 7 permanent CT scanners in provincial hospitals (4 in Saskatoon, 3 in Regina);
- 6 permanent CT scanners in regional hospitals (Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Yorkton, Swift Current, North Battleford, Lloydminster)
- 1 permanent CT scanner in a district hospital (Estevan)
- 1 community-based CT scanner in Regina (Radiology Associates of Regina contracted with RQHR to provide 13,000 exams per year).

The government continues to explore opportunities to improve service and reduce wait times. In June 2016, the *Patient Choice Medical Imaging Act* was introduced in the Legislative Assembly. The passage of the legislation and accompanying regulations will enable patients to choose to pay for medically-necessary CT services privately, similar to the arrangement now in place for private-pay MRIs. The service provider would then be required to provide a free CT scan to a patient on the pubic wait list.

In a recent three-month period (May to July 2016),

9 out of 10

patients received their CT scan

within 59 days.

For more information about medical imaging, visit www.saskatchewan.ca.