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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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TIMMINS AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL AND PARTNERS UNDERTAKE THIRD-PARTY REVIEW OF DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING SERVICES AS PART OF QUALITY ASSURANCE INITIATIVE

Timmins, ON, Friday, December 13, 2013, – Timmins and District Hospital (TADH) and its 12 partner hospitals across Northeastern Ontario have undertaken a third-party review of their diagnostic imaging services.

The review, which began in late November, was initiated in order to develop a Quality Assurance Program consistent with other leading hospitals, and to build on the recommendations of the Ontario Minister of Health's Expert Panel Review.

"Quality patient care is our utmost priority," said Roger Walker, President and CEO of TADH. "This proactive review is part of a larger effort that began in 2012, with the goal of continually improving our diagnostic imaging function."

TADH is partnered with the 12 other hospitals for Diagnostic Imaging. Last year, Diagnostic Imaging Services at TADH conducted 133,400 tests (including CTs, Ultrasounds, MRIs, X-rays, mammograms, bone density, and nuclear medicine exams).

For the purposes of the third-party review, 8,000 CT, Ultrasound, and MRI scans from May and June of this year are being examined. TADH and its partners chose to assess those exams in order to have a representative sample that will provide information for the reviewers to base recommendations to the hospitals for future improvements.

The review is being conducted by an independent group of radiologists, Medical Imaging Consultants (MIC Group), of Edmonton, and is expected to conclude in March, 2014.

At that time, the hospitals will receive a report that will provide detail on the review, and identify any areas for improvement to their processes. The hospitals will use the recommendations to guide their decisions on future quality assurance programs, and any other improvements required to ensure the highest level of patient care.

"The Minister of Health has clearly indicated that Ontario is taking action to strengthen its approach to diagnostic imaging," said Walker. "We are a part of that process."

During the review, there may be a need to contact some patients and their physicians for follow up. If patients require additional information, they can call the toll-free Diagnostic Imaging Review line at 1.855.766.6363, or email review2013@tadh.com.

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TADH Network Diagnostic Imaging Review

BACKGROUNDER

- Timmins and District Hospital and its 12 partner hospitals in diagnostic imaging (DI) began a process in 2012 to bring new quality improvements to the DI services of the network.
- The partner hospitals are Services de santé de Chapleau Health Services, Englehart and Area Hospital, Hôpital Notre Dame, Hornepayne Community Hospital, Kirkland and District Hospital, Sensenbrenner Hospital, Hôpital de Smooth Rock Falls Hospital, Weeneebayko Area Health Authority, Lady Dunn Health Centre, Anson General Hospital, Lady Minto Hospital, and Bingham Memorial Hospital.
- In Spring of 2013 the hospital network received several responses to a Request for Proposals for a group to advise on a new Quality Assurance (QA) program, provide a new Medical Director and other measures.
- In September of 2013, Dr. Zeev Maizlin was hired as the new Medical Director of the DI program.
- Also in September of 2013, the network hired the MIC Group (Medical Imaging Consultants) to conduct a third-party review and provide recommendations to the network for a new Quality Assurance program.
- The review has begun as of November 27th, 2013 and will continue until approximately March of 2014 when it is anticipated that 8,000 cases will have been reviewed. This is a representative sample from the over 133,000 diagnostic imaging exams performed by the network each year.
- During the course of the review, some patients or their physicians may be contacted in order to gather further information or determine a need for follow-up. To date the MIC Group has reviewed 972 diagnostic reports. Four require further follow-up. Of the four, one has been deemed to be of clinical significance requiring further intervention.
- If patients require further information, they can call the toll-free Diagnostic Imaging Review line at 1.855.766.6363, or email review2013@tadh.com.