Memorandum

Date: October 17, 2018
To: All MRI referring clinicians
From: Dr. Jonathon Leipsic, Regional Medical Director and Department Head, VCH/PHC Medical Imaging
Dr. Emil Lee, Regional Medical Director and Department Head, FHA Medical Imaging
Taralyn Day, Director, Special Projects, Lower Mainland Medical Imaging
Re: Important Changes to MRI Referral Process – Memorandum #2

MRI Central Intake will launch on Monday, October 29, 2018

Lower Mainland Medical Imaging is implementing central intake for outpatient MRI referrals across Fraser Health (FH), Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and Providence Health Care (PHC). Specialty sites within PHSA are not included in the first phase of central intake. If you are referring patients to BC Children’s Hospital or BC Cancer, please continue to follow the current referral process.

Beginning October 29, 2018, referring clinicians will be required to fax all outpatient MRI requests to central intake.

1. **New central fax number for outpatient MRI referrals** will be communicated closer to the implementation date.
   - Outpatient MRI referrals will be received at a central office and assigned to a facility for booking based on criteria including wait times, patient geography and the types of exams each MRI facility can accommodate.
   - Referring clinicians will have the ability to specify an MRI facility on the requisition should the exam need to be performed at a specific location.
   - Inpatient/Emergency & Speciality Co-located Clinic MRI requests will continue to be managed at the site level.
   - For urgent MRI referrals that require imaging within 72 hours, please contact the relevant site medical imaging department by phone to speak with a radiologist.

2. **New lower mainland MRI requisition form** – will be available online as of October 29, 2018 at [http://www.vch.ca/MRI-Central-Intake](http://www.vch.ca/MRI-Central-Intake). Work is underway to make the MRI requisition available in EMR’s.

3. **Appropriateness checklists for MRI lumbar spine, knee and hip**
   As part of our commitment to quality improvement, and to provide decision support to referring clinicians, appropriateness checklists have been developed to accompany referrals for MRI lumbar spine, knee and hip. Appropriateness criteria are consistent with the Choosing Wisely Canada recommendations.
   Beginning October 29, 2018 appropriateness checklists must be faxed to central intake along with the MRI requisition when requesting MRI lumbar spine, knee or hip.
   Appropriateness checklists as well as reference material for clinicians and patients will be available online at [http://www.vch.ca/MRI-Central-Intake](http://www.vch.ca/MRI-Central-Intake). Work is also underway to make the checklists available in EMRs.
   For appropriateness guidance from a radiologist, please call the Rapid Access to Consultative Expertise (RACE) line at 1-604-696-2131 or visit [http://www.raceconnect.ca](http://www.raceconnect.ca).

Lower Mainland Medical Imaging is committed to evaluating and enhancing the new MRI central intake process. For questions regarding the new MRI central intake process, please email [MRICentralIntake@vch.ca](mailto:MRICentralIntake@vch.ca).