Memorandum

Date: October 31, 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
Jeff Chabot, Project Manager, Lower Mainland Medical Imaging
Re: Important Changes to MRI Referral Process – Memorandum #4

MRI Central Intake went live on Monday, October 29, 2018

Lower Mainland Medical Imaging has implemented 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.

The new fax number for the MRI Central Intake office is 1-866-588-6955

1. New process for submitting outpatient MRI referrals
   - Outpatient MRI referrals will be received at our central office and assigned to a facility for booking based on criteria including wait times, 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 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
   - The new MRI requisition is available online at http://www.vch.ca/MRI-Central-Intake. Please print a clean copy from the website to ensure maximum legibility.
   - Ensure all highlighted fields on the requisition are complete or the requisition may be returned.
   - Most EMR vendors have loaded the new requisition with a couple coming online in the coming weeks.

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.
   - A copy of the checklist and reference materials for clinicians and patients can be found at http://www.vch.ca/MRI-Central-Intake.
   - Appropriateness checklists must be faxed to central intake along with the MRI requisition only when requesting MRI lumbar spine, knee or hip.
   - For additional appropriateness guidance from a radiologist, please call the Rapid Access to Consultive Expertise (RACE) line at 1-604-696-2131 or visit 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.