Memorandum

Date: November 21, 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 #5

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 must be sent to the MRI Central Intake Office. At some future date, outpatient MRI requisitions sent to the hospital MRI departments will be returned to the office from which the referral came.
   - Referring clinicians have the ability to specify an MRI facility on the requisition should the exam need to be performed at a specific location.

2. New lower mainland MRI requisition form
   - A new MRI requisition has been created. Ensure all highlighted fields on the requisition are complete or the requisition may be returned.
   - Some users have had problems with the yellow highlighting on the new forms making sections illegible. Updated versions with a softer yellow highlighting can be found at the link below.

3. Appropriateness checklists for MRI lumbar spine, knee and hip
   - All outpatient MRI referrals for lumbar spine, knee and hip body parts must be submitted along with a completed copy of the newly developed appropriateness checklist. The outpatient MRI referral will not be processed by the Central Intake Office until the form is received.
   - Appropriateness checklists have been developed to accompany referrals for MRI lumbar spine, knee and hip as part of our commitment to quality improvement and to provide decision support to referring clinicians. Appropriateness criteria are consistent with the Choosing Wisely Canada recommendations.
   - 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.

A copy of the checklist and reference materials for clinicians and patients can be found at: http://www.vch.ca/MRI-Central-Intake.

For questions regarding the new MRI central intake process, please email MRICentralIntake@vch.ca.