



GRAND TRAVERSE  
RADIOLOGISTS

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# 2015 ADVANCES IN MRI SERVICES

(Magnetic Resonance Imaging)

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Three exciting improvements in MRI services are underway at Munson Medical Center (MMC) for 2015. A new 1.5T Open Bore MRI at Munson Community Health Center (MCHC), a new MRI center at MMC, and a 3.0T Open Bore MRI at MMC. Grand Traverse Radiologists, PC and MMC

have worked together for over a year on this long-term plan that will be a big step forward for MRI services in the region.



Todd W. Kennell, MD  
Grand Traverse Radiologists, P.C.

**New Open MRI at MCHC:** A state-of-the-art Siemens Aera 1.5T Open Bore MRI is replacing the 1.0T MRI at MCHC and should be ready for patients in March

2015. The MRI industry developed 70 cm open bore MRI technology (also called wide bore) to maintain great image quality while improving patient comfort compared to 60 cm systems. The 70 cm opening is as wide as CT scanners providing a more comfortable experience for most claustrophobic and/or large patients.

With the new 1.5T Aera MRI, we will significantly expand the range of outpatient MRI at MCHC including breast MRI, heart MRI and other exams that we could not offer on the former equipment. The MCHC MRI schedule will improve significantly, with more time slots per day and additional weekend appointments. This will free up time on hospital scanners to better accommodate hospital inpatients and emergencies while allowing improved MRI access for outpatients away from the main hospital campus.



Siemens Aera 1.5T Open Bore MRI

**New MRI Facility at MMC:** A new MRI facility within MMC is being built to expand inpatient and outpatient MRI services. There will be 2 MRI scanner rooms, a dedicated outpatient waiting room with 4 private changing rooms in the front, and a separate back entrance which leads to a patient “holding area” within the MRI suite for inpatients and emergency room patients. The MMC MRI Center will be located between the ER and cafeteria, replacing and expanding an existing building in the courtyard. The first scanner room will house a new 3T MRI unit and the second room will be used for future expansion.

**3T Open MRI at MMC:** The new scanner for the MMC MRI Center will be a Siemens Skyra 3.0T Open Bore MRI that will replace the former 1.5T unit at the Madison Street MRI Center when that building is removed as the new Cowell Family Cancer Center is completed. The 3T MRI is the first in our service area and should be available for use by the end of 2015. This newest generation 3T MRI is capable of new applications in neuroradiology and higher resolution imaging for other MRI exams including musculoskeletal, brain, and spine.

2015 will be an outstanding year for MRI services in Northern Michigan. The MRI scheduling phone number remains unchanged at 231-935-7200. I can be reached through my office 231-935-0497 or email tkennell@mhc.net to address further questions. Please join our group in thanking MMC for their efforts in providing state-of-the-art services in this region.

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