

30 July 2010

PET/CT Installation

Better services for Cancer sufferers in the region

Construction of Barwon Health's state of the art PET/CT facility is nearing completion with Barwon Medical Imaging scheduled to move into the facility at the end of August 2010.

This Saturday will see the long awaited Siemens mCT machine delivered to BMI with installation to proceed during August.

For the Geelong community and the South West Region of Victoria, the opening of this facility will set a new standard for patient care and access. Cancer patients from the South West Region will benefit greatly, having local access to an essential diagnostic tool utilised in the detection, identification and management of their disease.

Geelong Hospital will be one of the few Regional Hospitals in Australia able to provide this vital imaging service in a public hospital setting. Patients will have access to PET/CT with no out-of-pocket expenses for imaging which attracts a Medicare rebate.

The mCT will also provide increased access to CT services at BMI, with three CT machines in operation across Geelong Hospital and The Geelong Private Hospital from September 2010.

Mr Jeff Umbers, Operations Manager at BMI said:

"This machine is cutting-edge and with the addition of PET specialist doctors to complement our existing Medical Imaging workforce, will ensure that BMI and Barwon Health remain a centre of excellence for imaging now and into the future."

"The opening of this world class vital PET/CT facility in Geelong Hospital will provide easy access for all patients in the region, and reduce, if not eliminate the necessity for travel to Melbourne."

-- Continues --

Background Information

PET/CT produces images of metabolic activity throughout the body and highlights diseased cells.

PET/CT is used to detect and monitor cancers, brain and heart diseases that are not visible with standard imaging.

Siemens mCT - combines all the capabilities of molecular imaging and radiology in a single piece of equipment - a true collaboration between diagnostic imaging specialties.

Photo Opportunity

What: Delivery of the mCT will occur on Saturday, 31st July 2010 at 8am. Entry point will be at BMI's front entry onto Ryrie Street.

Daniel Bucki-Smith – Chief Nuclear Medicine Technologist will be available between 8am and 9.15am for editorial.

Additional imagery (including clinical) is available on request.

-- Ends --

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