



# Unlocking the Potential

The Impact of Your Support  
on Diagnostic Imaging

Impact Report  
Spring 2025

**TOGETHER**<sub>FOR</sub>**YOU**  
*in Healthcare Excellence*

Fondation  
**HSN**  
Foundation





Our journey in Northeastern Ontario is guided by a strong sense of community and a shared passion for bringing quality healthcare closer to home. With your support, we are improving access to care and enhancing health services right here in our region—so people can receive the care they need, when they need it.

The addition of a second magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner at Health Sciences North (HSN) is a clear example of what we can achieve together. This investment continues to make a lasting difference in patient care—today and for generations to come.

The two MRI scanners have not only helped clear the backlog caused by the pandemic, but they continue to play a vital role in improving access to timely care—serving **17,000** people across the region in the past year alone.

HSN outperforms the provincial average for wait times with **62%** of patients scanned within the target time, compared to the provincial average of **35%**. Among Ontario's 27 Academic Teaching Hospitals, HSN ranks **second** for the shortest MRI wait times—an incredible achievement made possible with you by our side.

**Because of you**, access to MRI services has improved for people living in Northeastern Ontario. For many patients, this means less travel, reduced stress, and earlier diagnoses. Thank you for all that you do to ensure patients receive the care they need closer to home.

As we look to the future, your continued support will help ensure that we are ready to embrace new advancements in MRI technology – further improving diagnostic precision and patient outcomes.

Sincerely,



Anthony Keating  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Health Sciences North Foundation



# Improved Wait Times and Enhanced Care

The addition of a second MRI scanner has significantly increased capacity and reduced wait times. The average wait time for routine MRI scans at HSN is **42 days**—well below the provincial average wait of 101 days. This means patients are receiving timely diagnostic care without the long waits that are common at other hospitals across Ontario.

“The latest MRI technology allows us to capture clearer, more detailed images in less time—improving diagnostic accuracy and access to care,” said Dr. Heidi Schmidt, Chief and Medical Director of Medical Imaging at HSN and Radiologist. “This means shorter wait times for patients and faster diagnosis, which can make a critical difference in treatment planning and outcomes.”

## MRI by the Numbers

**62%** of patients at HSN are scanned within the target time frame (better than the provincial average of 35%)

**17,000** patients served annually (adults, pediatrics, and cancer patients)

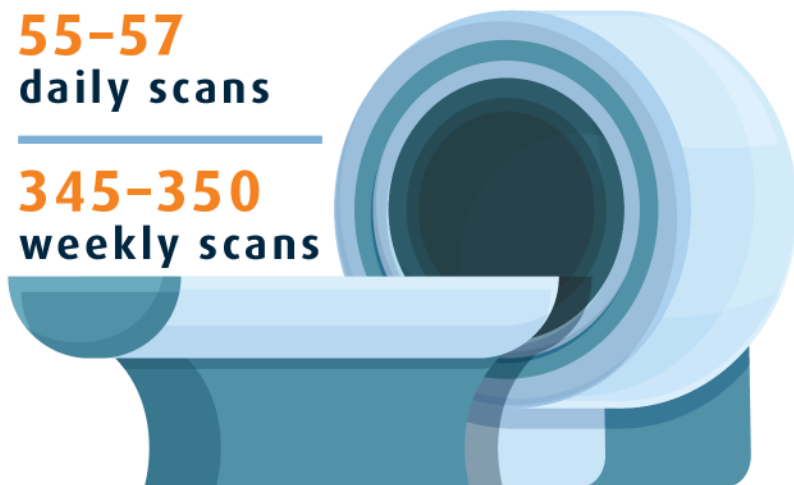
### Most common MRI scans

- Neurological imaging
- Abdominal imaging
- Pelvic imaging
- Musculoskeletal imaging
- Breast imaging
- Cardiothoracic imaging
- Specialized pediatric imaging

### Scan Volume and Access

**55–57**  
daily scans

**345–350**  
weekly scans



# Health Sciences North

## REGIONAL IMPACT

HSN serves as the primary regional healthcare hub in Northeastern Ontario, receiving patients from 23 hospitals across the region for specialized care and treatment.

Our reach spans every resident  
of Northeastern Ontario.

*Every patient.  
Every family.*



**DANIELLE**  
Hearst



**WENDY**  
Kirkland Lake



**MARY & JEFF**  
Parry Sound



**MOLLY**  
Manitoulin  
Island



**IRIS**  
Espanola

# The Impact of Your Support

For Tara's 11-year-old daughter, Olivia, having access to advanced MRI care close to home makes a world of difference—especially when navigating a complex condition.

Olivia, who is non-verbal and severely autistic, had her first MRI in April. The scan checked for any impact caused by Olivia's tendency to bang her head on hard surfaces when feeling agitated – a common expression among some autistic children when unable to communicate effectively.

“As any parent of a child with special needs knows, medical appointments can be overwhelming,” said Tara. “I’ve been through many with Olivia, and honestly, this was one of the most stress-free experiences we’ve ever had.”

Tara felt that Olivia was in the best hands at all times—surrounded by skilled professionals who showed empathy, patience, and true dedication. One of the most comforting aspects was how the team accommodated Olivia's unique needs. She was allowed to wear her own pyjamas and slippers, and even kept her blanket with her as she went under anaesthesia—small gestures that made a big impact in helping her feel secure.

“From the anaesthesiologist, medical team, and booking clerk to the MRI technicians who all played a role in making the experience run smoothly – I can't thank them all enough,” said Tara. “They explained everything involved in the process before I even had to ask, which put me at ease. Olivia feeds off my energy, so that calmness helped her too.”

Tara is especially grateful to have access to high-quality care close to home. “If we had to travel to Toronto, the long car ride would have left Olivia overstimulated and irritable,” she said. “Being close to home removed so much stress.”

Olivia's experience is just one example of how close access to MRI technology can make a difficult situation more manageable for families.







**"As a local firm, our commitment to community goes beyond the numbers. It begins and ends with people—our clients, our colleagues, our neighbours. We understand that timely access to critical resources like healthcare can make all the difference. Supporting MRI technology at our local hospital was a natural extension of our values. We're proud to contribute to an initiative that enhances care close to home and strengthens the wellbeing of the community we serve."**

- Joel Humphrey, Partner - Freelandt Caldwell Reilly, LLP

## A Spotlight on Our Donor Partner



The Unlock the Potential campaign to bring new MRI technology to Sudbury was a huge success thanks to the generosity of leaders in philanthropy who committed to making meaningful change in the health of the North. Freelandt Caldwell Reilly LLP is a longtime supporter of HSN and was committed to investing in the potential of HSN and meeting the growing needs of our community by supporting our MRI campaign.



**"The new MRI supports more patients by providing faster and more efficient technology, resulting in earlier diagnosis, reduced wait times, and better outcomes.**

**Like all forms of technology, medical imaging equipment requires regular upgrades to keep pace with advances in speed and image quality."**

**-Annette Tracey,  
MRI manager**



## **New MRI Machine Significantly Enhances Patient Care and Staff Capabilities**

The recent acquisition of a new MRI machine, along with an MRI-compatible ventilator, has brought important improvements to patient care and operational efficiency. The addition of this advanced equipment has expanded access, reduced wait times, and enhanced our ability to image even the most critically ill patients safely.

It has also opened doors for professional growth, offering new training and development opportunities. Staff now have the chance to gain hands-on experience in advanced imaging techniques that only modern technology can provide, which enriches their skills and strengthens care across our region.



# Early Detection and Ongoing Care

MRI's high-resolution images of soft tissues are priceless when diagnosing neurological conditions, such as brain tumours, multiple sclerosis (MS), stroke, and spinal cord injuries. This advanced imaging allows doctors to detect abnormalities earlier, creating more effective treatment plans.

For patients like Sandy, who has MS, regular MRI scans are vital for effective disease management. "Having an MRI close to home gives me peace of mind due to the convenience and the knowledge that my healthcare team is closely monitoring my condition with the latest technology. It helps me to manage my MS more effectively and stay ahead of potential issues," said Sandy. She undergoes two MRI scans each year to monitor her condition and maintain a proactive approach to treatment.

MRI is also essential for diagnosing musculoskeletal injuries like:

- torn ligaments
- muscle strains
- cartilage damage
- joint diseases

For heart patients, MRI provides valuable insights into the heart's structure, blood flow, and function, aiding in the assessment of conditions like heart failure and cardiomyopathy; abnormalities that may be missed by other imaging methods.

Whether used for early detection, treatment planning, or ongoing monitoring, MRI technology is an indispensable tool that helps improve patient outcomes.



SIEMENS  
Healthineers

**MAGNETOM Vida**

A BioMatrix System









## A Lasting Impact on Patient Care

Thanks to your generosity, thousands of patients across Northeastern Ontario now benefit from timely, high-quality MRI care close to home.

Your continued support ensures we remain at the forefront of diagnostic care—helping create a healthier future for our entire region.

[hsnfoundation.com](https://hsnfoundation.com)

[donate@hsnsudbury.ca](mailto:donate@hsnsudbury.ca)

41 Ramsey Lake Road, Sudbury, Ontario, P3E 5J1

