



MIDCENTRAL HEALTH

Welcome...

to the first newsletter from the Medical Imaging Service of MidCentral Health.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the individuals who contributed to our first newsletter – they have worked hard and I am proud of their product. It is hoped that this publication will become a venue to showcase all that is great in our department, and offer readers insight into our staff and activities. We also hope that it will promote feedback from you – our referrers.

There is much change about to occur for us and our referrers, and this is an exciting time to be at Palmerton North Hospital and involved with Medical Imaging. Over the next year a major project which will have many clinical and efficiency benefits, will be undertaken. Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS) and a Radiology Information System (RIS) gives us the power that all images will be produced digitally, stored digitally, and will be able to be viewed simultaneously wherever needed within the organisation. The RIS is the "back-room" part of the system which keeps it organised and

takes care of accepting and booking patients for procedures (including electronic referrals in future), and storing and transmitting the written reports. MidCentral is far from being an "early adopter" of this technology, but we hope also not to be the last to adopt current methods – manufacturing of x-ray film and film processors has almost ceased, following the trend of home photography. This technology will provide the launching pad to embark on many new initiatives that will propel Imaging into the 21st century and beyond. We will update you on these initiatives in future publications.

I have been asked many times about what it is like to be part of the Medical Imaging Service. Just for the record – it is a remarkable department. I am impressed by the work ethic of all our staff who are dedicated and committed professionals. Most departments contain outstanding individuals, however, ours is a place where individuals do, indeed, matter. All of our team deserve credit for

positive accomplishments and nothing is achieved without the whole cast performing important roles.

You are probably aware that in common with other departments throughout the country, we have difficulty in attracting the number or radiologists we require. We currently get by with the help of locums and the hard work of our existing staff. We also have ongoing collaboration with Broadway Radiology for recruitment of radiologists. More active use of the "web" has attracted attention, but unfortunately not always from radiologists vocationally registerable in NZ. We are limited by shortages of Radiologists and we ask for your support in what will be a very challenging time.

On behalf of the staff I would like to wish you, your families

and patients all a safe and happy festive season and I look forward to continuing to provide service for you all in the New Year.

Kind Regards

**Dr Kevin Smidt,
Clinical Director,
Medical Imaging**



General Department Opening Hours

**8.30am till 4.00pm
Mon, Tues & Fri.**

**9.30am till 4.00pm
Wed & Thurs.**

One of the busiest parts of our department, this service is open to all GP general radiography referrals including ACC work. No appointment is necessary.

There are two well equipped x-ray rooms specifically for GP patients and access to more if we're really busy! One was refurbished in 2005 with plain film equipment. The other is our pride and joy... the new DR Diagnost by Philips. In this digital room, images can be assessed for diagnostic quality within seconds of being taken.

Ward Room, ED & Clinics

Patients also visit the general department during out-patient clinics, such as Respiratory, Cardiology or Pre-op.

The 24 hour emergency service in ED also serves the many people returning for weekday Fracture and Orthopaedic clinics.

In-patients from the wards are seen in a separate room.

New Digital X-ray Equipment

The Medical Imaging department, was very excited to install new digital technology into the department in August.

The new Philips DR general x-ray machine is leading technology for all aspects of general radiography enabling very fine detail for soft tissue and bony anatomy.

The system uses a digital plate, which transfers the x-ray image to a computer screen immediately after it is taken. The Radiographer can then assess the image and release the patient following this without the need to process the x-ray, making the process much more efficient.

Currently these images are being printed onto film. This will change with the introduction to PACS, with the images being sent to viewing and reporting workstations and storage.

Pictured is Geoffrey Rangi the first patient x-rayed on the new equipment and Radiographer, Andrea Kernan one of the super users for the new equipment.

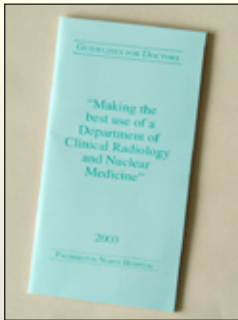


Helpful publication

Guidelines for Doctors

"Making the best use of a Department Of Clinical Radiology and Nuclear Medicine"

This slim teal coloured booklet helps the doctor choose the correct exam for the patient. Whether Radiographic, CT or ultrasound. It is an excellent introduction to the service we offer and is meant to help in the decision making process. We recommend all referrers have one. If you do not already have one it is available on request from the department.



New website

www.midcentraldhb.govt.nz

MidCentral will have a new web site open to outside viewers by November. Initially the Medical Imaging pages will be "work in progress" but we intend to fill these with information about our services, access to services and information for patients, including eventually the ability to download information sheets about procedures.

Healthlink electronic mail boxes

Already most practices have Healthlink electronic mail boxes to which x-ray and scan reports are sent electronically. We are aware that the current system has its imperfections but with your feedback we can work to improve on these. If you have a new Healthlink address or a new doctor please let our database administrator know so we can update our records. You may contact Sharon Piggot at 350 8589 or email her at sharon.piggott@midcentraldhb.govt.nz

What views for what? The recommended starting techniques (RSTs)

Because GPs know a bit about radiography, referrals often ask for a specified x-ray to show an area being examined. So why do you sometimes get a different view?

That's because our department has protocols we call RSTs, which match radiographic view to queried pathology or condition. These change over time as evidence proves what is most useful. For example did you know we have different protocols for RA, OA and gout? And views differ depending on the body part. This is where the referral form is helpful. The clinical details help us match the right view to the patient.

Full relevant clinical details on the form help the MRT choose which views will best serve your patient. Sometimes the MRT may even ring the referrer if the clinical details need clarification. We appreciate the time you take to answer our calls.

International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ)

Palmerston North Hospital's Medical Imaging department has again had its IANZ accreditation renewed. This annual audit was undertaken in July this year with a major peer review due to take place next year.

ACCREDITATION CRITERIA

IANZ is an internationally recognised process with accreditation for Radiology Services in compliance with the NZ Code of Radiology Management Practice. It ensures the technical competence and the effective quality processes of the radiology service. International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ) says that accreditation gives radiology services formal recognition of their skills, expertise, competence, systems, procedures and facilities based on independent assessment by experts.

SCOPES OF ACCREDITATION

Medical Imaging's IANZ accreditation covers all services including conventional diagnostic radiology and specialised techniques such as CT Scanning, Ultrasound, Scintigraphy, and Vascular interventional.

Palmerston North Hospital was one of the first large public hospitals in NZ to gain accreditation. We are very proud of the achievement and the regular reviews assist us to keep up with the high standards required.

Mammography

Our diagnostic mammography service is available for all symptomatic women over the age of 35 for General Practice and at any age for specialist referral.

Screening mammography for women between the ages of 45-70 should be screened through the national breast screening service, however yearly screening of women outside of these criteria may be accessed at MCH.

This is for women who:

- Have had previous breast cancer
- Have a mother or sister with pre-menopausal breast cancer or bi-lateral breast cancer.
- Have a breast histology demonstrating an at risk lesion.

For clarification at any time please contact Gayll, of Grade Mammography on 350 8724. There is an answer phone and this is checked every day so please leave a message.

Here to help...

Have you got a problem or need some help with our service. These people can assist:

- Kevin Smidt – Clinical Director/Nuclear Medicine Physician, ph 350 8454 or email kevin.smidt@midcentraldhb.govt.nz
- Di Orange – Team Leader, ph 350 8704 or email diane.orange@midcentraldhb.govt.nz
- John Goulden – Medical Head
- Mandy Smith – Radiology Coordinator
- Donna Rose – Admin Coordinator
- Laura Christie – Bariums/Angiography
- Jacqui Cook – CT
- Gayll Rasmussen – Mammography
- Rebecca Tod – Ultrasound
- Fiona Burleigh – Newsletter Editor.

These people are all contactable on ph 350 8700.

We also invite comment from referring doctors, either directly to us or via your representatives on the Medical Imaging User Group which meets six monthly (next meeting May 2008).

The user group consists of:

- Kevin Smidt – Chair
- John Goulden – Radiologist
- Jeff Brown – Paediatrics
- Helen Cosgrove – Emergency
- Steven Grant – Women's Health
- Andrew Herbert – Gastroenterology
- Jerry Varghese – Mental Health
- John Bourke – Geriatrics
- Juriaan de Groot – Rehabilitation
- Michael Hodges – Anaesthetics
- Mike Young – Surgical
- Richard Lander – Orthopaedics
- Warren Nicholls and Andy Greenway – General practitioner representatives.