



NEWS RELEASE

FIRST-IN-CANADA MEDICAL EQUIPMENT ARRIVES AT QUINTE HEALTH CARE BELLEVILLE GENERAL

BELLEVILLE, April 7, 2011 – Residents in the Quinte region now have access to state-of-the-art equipment used to diagnose coronary disease and identify patients at risk of heart attacks.

Quinte Health Care (QHC) will be the first hospital in Canada with the latest generation of nuclear cardiology cameras. Supplied by U.S. based Spectrum Dynamics, the D-SPECT camera produces a faster scanning time and lower doses of radiation than traditional cardiac nuclear cameras, while producing sharper images. The system adjusts the length of the scan according to the size of the patient and the dose administered to produce a consistently high image quality.

“QHC will be bringing our patients a faster, more convenient and much more pleasant experience,” said Dr. Rene Barette, head of the division of Nuclear Medicine in the Department of Diagnostic Imaging. “No longer having to lie flat will make the test easier for those with breathing issues. The smaller device with its open line of sight for the patient should be far better tolerated by those with claustrophobia. The system can accommodate larger patients upwards of 500lbs.”

The D-SPECT camera at QHC Belleville General is eight times faster than the conventional version currently in use. “This provides the flexibility to tailor the images to the specific patient. For instance, a patient who has trouble staying still can be imaged in as little as two minutes, an average patient could benefit from imaging in half the regular time with a quarter of the regular radiation dose while an otherwise fit patient could be imaged for the regular length of time with an 88% reduction in dose,” added Dr. Barette.

Myocardial Perfusion Imaging (MPI) is the most frequently used procedure for the diagnosis of coronary disease and identifying patients at risk of heart attacks. It is particularly useful in individuals at a moderate risk of disease. QHC will perform about 2000 of these scans per year.

The equipment, at a cost of approximately half a million dollars, was paid for by the Foundations that support Quinte Health Care, through donations from community members.

Quinte Health Care has 1600 staff members and 280 medical staff with privileges who provide a wide spectrum of specialized health care to residents living in Prince Edward and Hastings Counties and a portion of Northumberland County. Care is provided across four hospital sites (QHC Belleville General, QHC North Hastings, QHC Prince Edward County Memorial and QHC Trenton Memorial) and includes 260 inpatient beds, four emergency departments, operating rooms at three sites, a rehabilitation day hospital, a children’s treatment centre, diabetes education, ambulatory care clinics and community mental health programs.

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