

GOAL:

Close the gap on medical imaging equipment for safer, more efficient care

RECOMMENDATION

Invest \$612 million over five years, to ensure that available imaging equipment meets the quality standards that patients deserve

Medical imaging is central to the diagnosis and treatment of diseases, yet there has not been significant investment from the federal government for equipment in over 12 years – since the 2004 Health Accord. Canada ranks lower in terms of MRI and CT machines per million people than many of its OECD peers. Furthermore, the equipment that we do have is aging and in need of replacement. Canadian patients deserve access to the best possible medical imaging equipment – so that every patient gets the right test, at the right time.

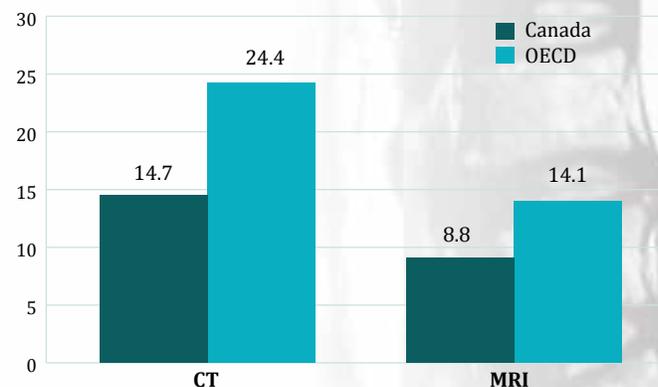
INVESTING IN EQUIPMENT WILL:

- 1. Reduce wait times** – aging equipment leads to inefficiencies of access; having newer medical imaging equipment available means that patients can get the care they need, when they need it.
- 2. Lead to more efficient diagnoses** – cutting-edge technology allows for clearer imaging, which results in more accurate results.
- 3. Make imaging safer** – newer equipment releases less radiation, which is better for patients and medical professionals. It also meets industry-wide lifecycle replacement standards.
- 4. Streamline delivery of healthcare** – new equipment will integrate with other digital health technology, like clinical decision support tools.
- 5. Improve access throughout Canada** – rural and remote communities will benefit from targeted investments.
- 6. Reduce economic burden** – in 2007, patients waiting for an MRI cost the Canadian economy \$13.8 billion. By 2020 that impact will be closer to **\$21 billion**. This is due to lost output, reduced productivity and foregone tax revenues as people are waiting for care and unable to work.

According to CADTH, Canada ranks below approximately half of OECD countries in terms of the number of MRI and CT units per million people. Countries such as Japan, Australia and Denmark have more equipment availability. A targeted federal investment of \$612 million, as part of the new Health Accord, can contribute to closing this gap across jurisdictions.

CANADA LAGS ON AVAILABILITY OF IMAGING EQUIPMENT

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING UNITS, CANADA VS. OECD PER MILLION POPULATION



Source: OECD, *Health at a Glance 2015: Health Indicators*



Canadian Association of Radiologists
L'Association canadienne des radiologistes

The Canadian Association of Radiologists is the national voice of radiologists in Canada. Radiologists are physicians who specialize in interpreting the results of medical imaging produced by modalities such as MRI, CT, PET, and ultrasound. The CAR is dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of care, promoting patient safety and helping radiologists contribute their expertise and value to patient care.