



Imaging Report July 2026

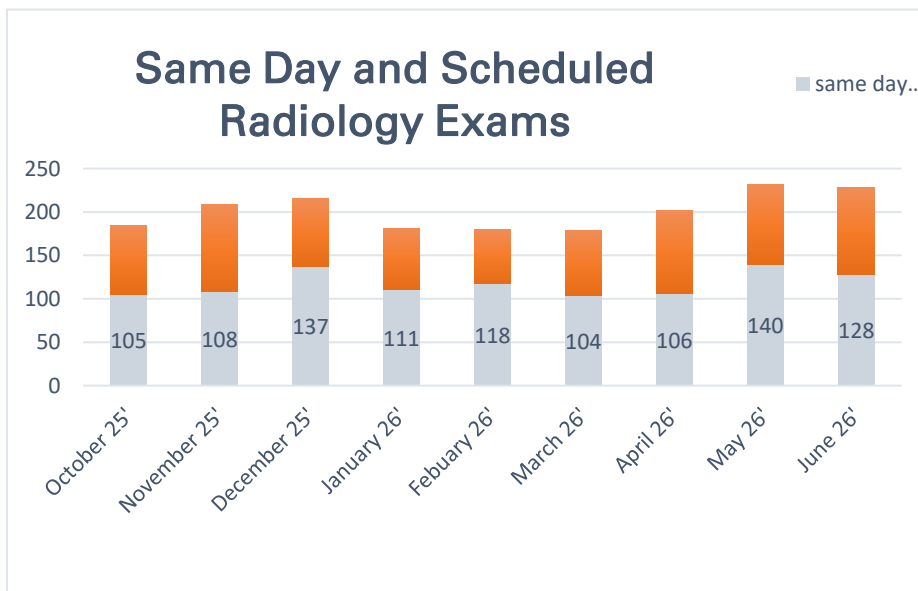
Workforce Wellness

Staff is currently at four full-time technologists. At present, two positions are being filled by contract technologists. One has been with us long term, and the other is the new contract technologist operating the MRI machine. Three technologists work day-to-day at the main campus and its modalities, with one technologist working full time in MRI. The three technologists at the main campus also rotate to MRI as needed to assist and observe. One full-time technologist position remains posted, and a full-time MRI technologist position will be posted soon. Our goal is to hire a permanent multi-modality technologist who can perform both MRI and CT exams, as well as a permanent technologist who can perform both CT and X-ray exams.

Community Engagement

In April, we hosted the high school physics class for a tour of the department during one class period. Students learned about the electromagnetic spectrum and had the opportunity to see our imaging equipment. We also hosted another high school student for a couple of afternoons to observe ultrasound and learn more about that modality. Leading up to the MRI go-live, I spoke live on KFSK and participated in a radio interview to discuss the new service. I also participated in Senator Murkowski's visit to the WERC building, including a tour of the MRI suite. In addition, our department participated in the WERC building open house. It has been great to see the community's excitement for PMC and the addition of MRI services.

Patient Centered Care



The annual Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) inspection took place in May and went smoothly, with continued accreditation being granted. As part of an ongoing quality project, we continue to review statistics on exams performed. On average, more than 50% of our monthly patient care is provided

through same-day appointments. This demonstrates that patients are often able to have their imaging exams completed on the same day their providers order them, improving access to timely diagnostic services..

Facility

With patient care now provided in two locations, we are working to ensure that supplies are readily available at both sites. Although MRI currently requires fewer day-to-day supplies, we continue to improve the workflow for receiving, stocking, and maintaining supplies at the WERC building to support efficient operations.

Financial Wellness

Patient exam statistics remain consistent. Since the go-live of MRI services, we have performed 34 MRI exams. Launching MRI services has been a collaborative effort across multiple departments to ensure encounters are completed, coded, and billed appropriately. We have successfully received our first reimbursement payments. We have also made changes within the EMR to support a more streamlined workflow, and departments continue to work with Cerner to resolve remaining issues. MRI prior authorizations have proven to be time-consuming. Many insurance providers require prior authorization to establish medical necessity before payment will be approved for MRI exams. While these exams are generally less emergent than CT exams, patients are eager to have them completed, and the authorization process can add time before scheduling. CT exam prior authorizations also remain a challenge due to the urgency of many CT exams and the time required to obtain approval. VA authorizations continue to be the most difficult, often requiring multiple steps and several days to complete.

We continue to monitor Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) funding opportunities and how imaging equipment may qualify, particularly since the large equipment project was not approved at this time. We are planning for the purchase of a new CT scanner as part of this year's capital budget.

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