

Canberra Imaging Group (CIG) offers bulk-billing to pensioners in the ACT and NSW, plus the provision of a wider range of leading edge imaging services.

The General Manager of CIG, Roberto Rojas-Morales stated that *“after careful consideration of our current billing policy the Canberra Imaging Group has decided to **extend the availability of bulk-billing** for pensioner card holders for all imaging examinations covered by Medicare. The result of the new policy is that pensioners will now be bulk-billed at all Canberra Imaging Group branches for X-ray, Ultrasound, CT, Nuclear Medicine and bone densitometry...the net result is that pensioners will benefit greatly by significant costs reductions from this initiative which will apply effective from 5th December 2008...”* he added.

The Chairman of the Canberra Imaging Group, Dr John Faulder –an imaging CT and MRI specialist- said that CIG has planned several new services for the region. He stated that the *“new Gungahlin site is to be a comprehensive and technologically advanced radiology practice featuring general X-ray, 2 ultrasound rooms, multi-slice CT scanner and OPG. The new facility will utilize digital imaging technology for all examinations”*. *“The decision by the Canberra Imaging Group to establish the new Gungahlin practice reflects the company’s commitment to continually improve our service and broadening the range and quality of the services offered to patients and physicians alike. The site is located within the commercial centre of Gungahlin and it offers ample car parking facilities. The premises will be operational in early December 2008”* added Roberto Rojas-Morales.

Dr Iain Duncan a partner nuclear physician from CIG said that *“Nuclear Medicine functional imaging is now directly combined with CT anatomical scanning to create SPECT-CT. It is the first technology to combine the power of SPECT with the precision of diagnostic multi-slice-CT. It makes it possible to pinpoint the exact location, size, nature, and extent of disease, anywhere in the body as well as provide higher image quality with the use of accurate attenuation correction, and faster acquisitions. SPECT-CT enables physicians to detect and locate changes in molecular activity even before anatomical changes become visible. We are proud to be at the forefront of nuclear medicine in Australia and bring the first multi-slice SPECT-CT to the A.C.T. Already this technology is quietly revolutionising nuclear medicine both here and in the USA”*.

The General Manager continued by saying that CIG *“have also secured new suitable premises in Goulburn and will install a Siemens ECAM Signature Series gamma camera to provide nuclear medicine services to patients in the Goulburn district and surrounding areas. Patients currently travel outside the region at great personal and emotional cost to access this service. The suite will be operational from Tuesday 2nd December and will offer a comprehensive range of General and SPECT Nuclear Medicine examinations”*.

Dr Faulder then said that *“Canberra Imaging Group are currently installing a Toshiba Aquilion 64 Slice/ 64 detector CT scanner capable of Cardiac CT Angiography examinations at the Brindabella Specialist Centre...cardiac CT is emerging as a promising examination tool for detecting coronary artery disease. Cardiac CT is a new non-invasive technique for visualizing the coronary artery circulation. We expect the major application of this new technique will be in patients with an intermediate risk of coronary artery disease and in patients with atypical chest pain. Coronary artery CT performed on a 64 detector CT has a high negative predictive value for severe coronary artery disease. The technique is also useful in assessing graft patency following bypass surgery. The service will commence in early 2009 and will be available to all referring doctors”* he concluded.

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Contact : Roberto Rojas-Morales - telephone (02) 6203 2245