

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Texas Regional Medical Center helps to improve patient experience in Atascosa County with new Philips magnetic resonance imaging system

(Jourdanton, TX) – South Texas Regional Medical Center has announced that patients and physicians in the community will soon be able to access the latest-generation magnetic resonance (MR) imaging scanner: the Achieva 1.5T system from Philips Healthcare. Not only does this MR system offer some of the clearest images available, it also features many patient-friendly features that make getting an MRI a more positive experience. In particular, the Achieva 1.5T system can perform whole body MR scans more quickly, reducing exam times. The design of the 1.5T system is also less intimidating and less claustrophobia inducing than other MR machines, contributing to patient acceptance.

The installation of the new technology has been a carefully planned process. Due to the sheer size of the magnet, the roof of the medical center needed to be removed to be able to take out the existing equipment and install the new magnet. The first stage of equipment removal took place on November 13, 2009. The second phase was executed on Monday, February 1, 2010, when the roof was again removed and the new magnet was delivered. The MR Technologists on staff at the medical center have already begun training sessions in Cleveland, Ohio, to update their skill set for the new MR. For the next three weeks, the magnet will be undergoing a calibrating stage called “ramping” which will enable the magnet for use on patients on March 5th.

“The Achieva 1.5T MR system we have installed provides exceptional image quality in the most patient-friendly environment. It is of tremendous diagnostic benefit to the community,” said *Barbara Lewis*, Director of Imaging.

South Texas Regional Medical Center is pleased to be able to offer this important improvement in healthcare to its patients. South Texas Regional Medical Center has been providing quality healthcare services to Atascosa County and surrounding areas since 1957. For more information about the medical center, please visit www.strmc.com.



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