


# Island Health Performance Measures

## MRI Exams



|                          |                              |  |  |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| Year to Date Performance | 48%                          | Performance Assessment   |  Yellow |
| Island Health Target     | Greater than or equal to 55% | Performance is outside acceptable range; Monitor and take action as appropriate. |  |

### What do we measure and why?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a medical imaging technique that uses magnetism, radio waves, and a computer to form pictures of organs and structures inside the body.

This indicator measures the percentage of MRI exams performed within a specific time period that were completed within the defined benchmarks by priority level: STAT - 1 day; ASAP - 7 days; Semi-Urgent - 30 days; Routine - 60 days.

MRI can create images of bones, blood vessels, the spinal cord, muscles, organs or joints. These images are important for determining a diagnosis and the best treatment. Waiting for an MRI exam can cause patient anxiety and could delay treatment. Island Health's goals is to minimize wait times.

### What is the target?

The target for 2018/19 is that at least 55% of exams are performed within the benchmark timeframe.

Due to increased funding from the Ministry of Health to improve access to MRI exams, the target was raised from 45% in 2017/18 to 55% in 2018/19.

### How are we doing?

As of March 2019, Island Health is not meeting the target. This percentage has, however, steadily improved over the past year.

North Island communities served by the Mobile MRI have fewer cases meeting benchmark times, as many patients waiting for routine exams choose to wait for the MRI to come to their community rather than travel to have their exam sooner. We expect MRI services in the North Island will improve with the recent opening of the North Island Hospital Campbell River and Comox Valley campuses and their new MRI machines.

### What actions are we taking?

The Ministry of Health increased funding to BC Health Authorities to improve access to MRI exams by increasing the number of exams performed throughout the province by the end the March 2019. In Island Health, this will mean that over 48,000 MRI scans will be performed in 2018/19.

Focused recruitment efforts are expected to help with staffing shortages. Standard protocols are being developed to minimize scan time and increase capacity. Island Health will make MRI wait time data available to some community physicians to inform service utilization decisions.