

HDIRS Fact Sheet

HOSPITAL DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING REPOSITORY SERVICES

Connecting Clinicians, Accelerating Care

Founded in 2007, Hospital Diagnostic Imaging Repository Services (HDIRS) is an independent, not-for-profit corporation responsible for operating two of Ontario's diagnostic imaging repositories as part of eHealth Ontario's Diagnostic Imaging Program.

HDIRS enables the secure storage and retrieval of electronic images (e.g., X-rays, ultrasounds, MRIs, CT scans) and associated patient records by authorized hospitals and independent health facilities. Combined, the two repositories store tens of millions of images and serve nearly 7.5 million people in the south-central area of Ontario (i.e., almost 55% of the population).

In addition to providing IT services, HDIRS works to accelerate knowledge creation by facilitating better collaboration between health service providers. The knowledge not only makes for a better quality of patient care, it holds promise for a more effective and sustainable healthcare system that saves and prolongs the lives of more Ontarians.

Expanding in All Directions

40+ hospitals sharing
100 independent health facilities sharing
44+ million exams stored
7 of 14 LHINs supported
55% of Ontario's population served
15–19% estimated reduction in repeat imaging
Operating 2 regional DIRs
3 petabytes of data
DI exams received from 14 PACS types
Approximately 20 full-time, permanent employees

Adding Value to Members, Patients, and the Healthcare System

- Supports improvements in patient care
- Facilitates clinician collaboration
- Supports care closer to home
- Reduces retakes and unnecessary radiation exposure
- Increases patient access to specialists
- Reduces diagnostic imaging wait times and costs
- Improves clinician workflow and productivity
- Lightens hospital IT, administrative, and risk burden
- Ensures flexibility, scalability, consistency, and availability in the healthcare system
- Increases purchasing power and economies of scale
- Reduces impacts on the environment





HDIRS imaging has allowed us to now directly interface with radiologists from our referring and partner sites, allowing for a new level of interaction that will lead to ongoing improvements in the quality of imaging in communities, particularly as related to specialized and regionalized cancer care.”

Calvin H.L. Law, MD, MPH, FRCS

Chief, Odette Cancer Centre, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Regional Vice President, Toronto Central North, Cancer Care Ontario
Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Toronto

Providing IT Services (and More) to Members

- Image publishing and storage
- Image archiving and retrieving
- Viewer provisioning
- Peer review as a service
- Foreign exam management
- PACS upgrades and migrations
- Diagnostic Imaging Common Service connectivity
- Data quality support (e.g., PACS admin access)
- Value-added service evaluation
- Service desk and technical support
- Clinical and workflow support (including training)
- Reporting and analysis

Always Working to Advance Digital Health

- 2006 – 10 Ontario hospitals discuss combining resources
- 2007 – HDIRS forms to develop a shared diagnostic imaging repository (DIR)
- 2008 – HDIRS helps 8 hospitals move from film to a picture archiving communications system (PACS)
- 2009 – HDIRS builds a DIR and the associated governance, policies, and procedures
- 2010 – HDIRS connects the original 10 Ontario hospitals
- 2011 – HDIRS connects 13 other hospitals
- 2012 – eHealth Ontario mandates connectivity for independent health facilities (IHF)
- 2013 – HDIRS integrates 30 individual IHF locations
- 2014 – HDIRS integrates another 40 individual IHF locations
- 2015 – HDIRS stores 20+ million diagnostic imaging exams
- 2016 – Diagnostic Imaging Common Services project gives clinicians province-wide access to DI reports
- 2018 – HDIRS converges with the GTA West DIR, one of the other 3 DIRs in Ontario



Partnering for Success



HDIRS would not exist and cannot succeed without its member hospitals, eHealth Ontario, and Canada Health Infoway.

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