

HDIRS Fact Sheet

HOSPITAL DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING REPOSITORY SERVICES

Connecting Clinicians, Enriching Care

Founded in 2007, HDIRS is an independent, not-for-profit corporation responsible for operating two of Ontario's four diagnostic imaging repositories as part of Ontario Health's DI Program. HDIRS was created by hospitals, for patients.

Since its inception, HDIRS has been focused on enabling the secure storage and retrieval of diagnostic images (e.g., x-rays, ultrasounds, MRIs) and associated patient records by authorized hospitals and independent health facilities. Sharing diagnostic images supports the movement and treatment of patients, reduces repeat scans and harmful patient radiation exposure, decreases wait times, and reduces hospital overcrowding and hallway medicine.

Combined, HDIRS' two repositories store tens of millions of images, connect 37+ corporations and 70+ independent health facilities, and serve nearly 7.5 million people in the south-central area of Ontario, which accounts for 55% of the population.

HDIRS also serves as a shared services provider and service innovation hub for its hospital members. In addition to providing IT services, HDIRS has also invested in adding clinical value, containing costs, and accelerating knowledge creation by facilitating better collaboration among health service providers.

Expanding in All Directions

- 37+ hospitals sharing
- 70+ independent health facilities sharing
- 57+ 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, FRCSC

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)
- Patient portal integration
- 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 sharing 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 DI 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
- 2019 – HDIRS launches peer review as a shared service



Partnering for Success



HDIRS partners with member hospitals, independent health facilities, Ontario Health, and Canada Health Infoway to connect clinicians and enrich care.

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