

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 one of Ontario's three 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.

HDIRS' repository stores tens of millions of images, connects 37+ corporations and 70+ independent health facilities, and serves 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
66+ million exams stored
~5 million exams securely shared annually
55% of Ontario's population served
15–19% estimated reduction in repeat imaging
Operating the largest of the 3 regional DIRs
3+ petabytes of data
DI exams received from 14 PACS types

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 administratively with the GTA-West DIR, one of the other 3 DIRs in Ontario
- 2019 – HDIRS launches peer review as a shared service
- 2020 – HDIRS completes the technical consolidation of the GTA-West and HDIRS DIRs and now operates one comprehensive repository



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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