

# No More Claustrophobia!

*Brunswick Campus upgrades medical imaging options.*

Receiving a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) exam can cause anxiety for patients who are fearful of tight, enclosed spaces. But that may no longer be the case at the Southeast Georgia Health System Brunswick Campus. Patients can now look forward to a more comfortable, roomier experience, thanks to advanced imaging technology recently acquired by the Health System.

This summer, crews will install a new MRI scanner in the Glynn-Brunswick inpatient tower. “The GE Artist 1.5 Tesla provides a faster scan, which reduces the time patients are required to lie motionless during the MRI exam,” says Scott Wilson, MSA, CRA, director, Imaging Services. “At the same time, the new machine provides higher-quality images than those obtained with the older unit it’s replacing.”

At 70 centimeters, the new machine’s bore (opening) is roomier and shorter, which can be a plus for those who experience claustrophobia.

“It doesn’t feel quite so scary when you can look into the machine and see out the other end,” Mr. Wilson explains.

The machine’s 500-pound capacity means it can also accommodate larger patients.

Other advantages of the new MRI unit include feet-first imaging (which some people find easier than entering head-first) and the ability to scan patients in unusual positions (such as lying on the side instead of the back) without sacrificing image quality.

## Existing MRI gets a makeover

In addition to acquiring the new MRI scanner for the inpatient tower, the Health System invested in upgrades for its existing GE SignaWorks HD28 1.5 Tesla MRI unit, located in the Outpatient Care Center. New computers, software and sensitive scanning coils are among the upgrades. Similar to the new MRI, the existing unit will include the advanced technology necessary to provide better images and a faster, more comfortable scan.

## How MRIs Work

MRI scanners use magnetic fields and radio waves — not X-rays — to obtain images of the body.

During an MRI exam, the patient is positioned on a table inside a tunnel. The machine produces a magnetic field that harmlessly aligns atoms in the body. When the atoms realign, they emit signals that the machine uses to build images of organs and other structures.

MRIs are especially useful for diagnosing conditions in soft tissues, including joint problems, cancer, heart and vascular diseases, and brain and spine disorders.

## Benefits!



provides a faster scan



feet-first imaging (which some people find easier than entering head-first)

the ability to scan patients in unusual positions without sacrificing image quality



70-centimeter bore (opening) is roomier and shorter

provides higher-quality images



500-pound capacity