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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

***MHA Replaces CT***

**(Strathroy, ON) –** Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) is pleased to announce the installation of a new state-of-the-art GE Revolution HD CT Scanner at the Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital site. This new unit, which was installed in only 7 days, replaces the existing machine purchased in March 2007, which was at its end of life. This new CT Scanner will enhance and optimize patient care while giving health professionals the tools they need to quickly assess and provide a diagnosis to patients.

“The Middlesex Hospital Alliance plays an important role in providing CT scanning for the residents of south-western Ontario and ensuring they have timely access to this service,” said Todd Stepanuik, President & CEO of Middlesex Hospital Alliance. “As the use of CT technology continues to rise as a diagnostic need, we are pleased to provide the resources that enable the region to expand service even further.”

Computerized Tomography, more commonly referred to as CT enable physicians to take cross-sectional bone, muscle and tissue images that are more accurate and far superior to a general X-ray. Patients will benefit from these improved diagnostic imaging services as Physicians can provide more informed treatment decisions for patients, right in their own community.

The new CT scanner offers many benefits for the patient. New radiation dose reduction software reduces the exposure for the patient by between 30% - 70%. New application software is used for patients with hip or knee replacement or other metallic objects to improve the images and reduce the artifacts of those implanted devices.

Atthe end of May, some further imaging software improvements will be installed which will enhance image quality in certain key organs such as the liver, pancreas and kidneys. This enhancement will allow the Hospital to use less intravenous contrast for those patients with kidney impairment. New display features also allow the technologists to focus more on the patient and less on the system.

“We’re very excited to be the first hospital in the area to acquire such technologically advanced equipment. We’re reducing radiation doses for our patients, providing superior quality images for our physicians, and offering new skills for our technologists. This is a tremendous opportunity for our hospital, our imaging team, and the patients and families that we serve,” said Diane Smith, Director of Diagnostic Imaging and Cardiac Services.

About MHA:

The Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) is comprised of two fully-accredited partner sites: Four Counties Health Services and Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital.

A progressive, team-oriented and technologically adept organization of excellence, the MHA is creating a more integrated and seamless approach to treatment by embracing and seeking out partnerships, through collaboration and investing in people. This coordinated approach helps to ensure that a high level of service is provided while reducing costs and continually enhancing quality.

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