

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW DIMENSION IN OPEN MRI AND PATIENT COMFORT

Washington County Memorial Hospital to Install Siemens 1.5T MAGNETOM Espree with Tim™ –

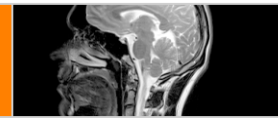
The world's first Open Bore MRI

Potosi, MO, January — **Washington County Memorial Hospital**, has plans to install the county's first Open Bore, 1.5 Tesla, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system in April 2018. This system includes a larger opening for obese and claustrophobic patients, an increased table capacity of 550 pounds, motion reduction software, and decreased scan times all while capturing high-field quality diagnostic images.

"This is going to increase our efficiency and patient convenience," says Michele Meyer, CEO, Washington County Memorial Hospital "The patient-friendly design of this magnet will make it easier for large patients and those with claustrophobia to have a MRI examination which produces higher quality images."

"This advanced technology, added comfort, and shorter scan times will reduce repeat imaging for all patients" added Randy Dunn, Director of Radiology, Washington County Memorial Hospital "Maybe the best part of providing this new technology to our patients is the convenience of having the same advanced imaging capabilities as larger hospitals in our community."

Since two-thirds of American adults are overweight, the health-care industry is challenged to accommodate these larger patients with imaging systems that were designed for people who weigh much less. Currently, patients too large to fit inside the bore of a high-field MRI magnet have image studies done in open MRI systems with low-field magnets. This limits the diagnostic usefulness of the images obtained. The field



strength of a magnet is measured in units of Tesla – the higher the number, the higher the field strength. The higher the field strength, the better the quality of images produced.

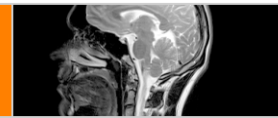
Claustrophobic patients present another challenge for MRI systems. They can be sedated, adding to their inconvenience and the time it takes to schedule and perform an exam. With our new Open Bore design scanner many claustrophobic patients will be able to undergo their exam relaxed and without sedation.

The Siemens Medical Solutions MAGNETOM Espree to be installed in April 2018, at Washington County Memorial Hospital includes a bore opening of nearly 2.3 feet in diameter and almost one foot of free space between a patient's head and the magnet. The Espree also features the shortest 1.5 Tesla magnet available. At approximately four feet long the magnet allows more than 60 percent of exams to be completed with the patient's head outside the magnet, helping to ease claustrophobia.

The Espree can perform advanced imaging in less time than conventional scanners with Siemens' Total imaging matrix (Tim™) technology. Tim is the first whole body surface coil design that enables the highest resolution images in a shorter acquisition time. Tim coils are very light and comfortable when compared to traditional equipment.

The MAGNETOM Espree combines speed, advanced technology, and patient comfort to obtain high-quality imaging. This combination will provide our referring physicians with confidence that patients of all types can be imaged locally with the latest technology. For our patients this means increased comfort, shorter scan times, high quality imaging, and the reduced cost/stress of traveling to a larger hospital when advanced MRI imaging is needed.

Washington County Memorial Hospital is a Critical Access Hospital who strives to maintain best practices and a full continuum of care for all patients in our community and surrounding communities. WCMH is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and provides a wide array of support services for all patient needs. The longstanding community hospital is a cornerstone for quality, compassionate



healthcare. Our healthcare family is committed to your family right here, close to home.