

# NEWS RELEASE

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## NEW MRI UP AND RUNNING AT BOTHWELL REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER

SEDALIA, MO – Bothwell Regional Health Center's new Siemens 1.5 Tesla magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is now operational at the hospital.

"The new MRI gives physicians greater capabilities in detecting and diagnosing disease," said Bothwell President and CEO John Dawes. "It is a significant investment and part of the hospital's ongoing efforts to provide our patients with the best possible technology for their care."



An MRI uses a magnetic field and radio waves to create detailed images of the body. The scans are read by radiologists and help physicians diagnose disease or determine the severity of certain injuries.

Patients will benefit from the new MRI in a number of ways.

- The larger opening and narrower bore means patients are less likely to feel claustrophobic. In fact, the patient's head is located outside the coil for nearly all studies, except head and neck scans. The new MRI can accommodate a patient weighing up to 550 pounds with excellent image quality.
- The new MRI computer is 30 percent faster, so scans will take less time. The software also takes into account metal items, such as rods, joint replacements or shrapnel, during the scan.
- Makes abdominal and pelvic imaging easier, allowing for multi-breath hold examinations as well as free breathing during the scans. The result is motion-free scans with more clarity on patients of all ages.

The health center was notified in August that it received a certificate of need from the Missouri Health Facilities Review Committee for the new MRI, which replaces a unit installed in 2001. Bothwell also has an open 1.0 Tesla MRI located at the Bothwell Diagnostic Center at 10<sup>th</sup> and Winchester.

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