


# Island Health Performance Measures

## MRI Exams



Year to Date Performance	36%	Performance Assessment	 Red
Island Health Target	Greater than or equal to 85%	Performance is significantly outside acceptable range; take action and monitor progress.	

### What do we measure and why?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a medical imaging technique that uses magnetism, radio waves, and a computer to form pictures of organs and structures inside the body.

This indicator measures the percentage of MRI exams performed within a specific time period that were completed within the defined benchmarks by priority level: STAT - 1 day; ASAP - 7 days; Semi-Urgent - 30 days; Routine - 60 days.

MRI can create images of bones, blood vessels, the spinal cord, muscles, organs or joints. These images are important for determining a diagnosis and the best treatment. Waiting for an MRI exam can cause patient anxiety and could delay treatment. Island Health's goals is to minimize wait times.

### What is the target?

The 2019/20 target is that 85% of exams be performed within the benchmark timeframe.

The Ministry of Health monitors all BC health authorities using the same target.

### How are we doing?

As of March 31, Island Health was not meeting the target for MRI exam wait times.

Due to COVID-19, the department began postponing lower priority exams as of March 19, which resulted in higher priority exams being provided more quickly.

Sites served by the Mobile MRI have fewer cases meeting benchmark because many routine patients choose to wait for the MRI to come to their community rather than travel to have their exam sooner.

### What actions are we taking?

For 2018/19, the Ministry of Health increased funding to BC Health Authorities to improve access to MRI exams by increasing the number of exams performed throughout the province. Island Health exceeded the additional 10,000 exam target and a total of 49,346 MRI exams were performed in 2018/19.

In 2019/20, Island Health has set a target to perform 50,000 MRI exams. Island Health is currently on track to meet and exceed this fiscal year volume target. We are also working to recruit more MRI technologists, but this has had limited success so far.