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Spire Gatwick expands MR procedures and scores a try with Skyra 3T imaging system

Spire Gatwick Park Hospital, part of Spire Healthcare, has recently installed its first MAGNETOM® Skyra 3T MR system from Siemens Healthcare. The system was formally unveiled by former English rugby union player, Austin Healey. Having used a previous-generation Siemens system, the MAGNETOM Symphony 1.5T, for over nine years, Spire Gatwick sought a replacement state-of-the-art system to expand its service provision. This is expected to include cardiac MR procedures, whole-body imaging, whole-body diffusion and cartilage imaging.

The Skyra will also continue to cater for the hospital's standard MR imaging workload such as neurological, musculoskeletal and oncology procedures. As the first of its kind within the Spire group, it is hoped the system's excellent image acquisition times and resolution will also help to reduce the time of procedures and assist with patient throughput.

The Skyra is expected to enhance patient acceptability with its 70cm Open Bore design, suitable for a variety of patient sizes. The system employs Dot™ (Day optimising throughput) technology, providing the Hospital with patient personalisation options, user guidance and examination automation to help optimise workflow. This sits alongside Tim® 4G (total imaging matrix) functionality, designed to assist with the rapid acquisition of high resolution images. It offers up to 204 coil elements linked to 48 channels (option available up to 128 channels) for flexible parallel imaging and excellent image quality.

“Our previous Siemens MR system was in use for over nine years and imaged in excess of 27,000 patients. Having first seen the Skyra at the Radiological Society of North America 2013 Annual Meeting, we decided it was a natural progression of our

offering and would fit with our dedication to providing a rapid, top-class service,” states David Hillier, Lead CT / MRI Radiographer at Spire Gatwick Park Hospital. “We look forward to reaping the rewards not only in terms of improved image quality but also increased speed to boost patient throughput. We also expect patient acceptance to increase due to a more comfortable experience with the system’s 70cm wide bore.”

“The Skyra 3T system will assist Spire Gatwick Park Hospital to expand its procedures with the added benefits of increased workflow and excellent image resolution,” states Vince Golledge, Regional Sales & Corporate Business Manager at Siemens Healthcare. “Employing Tim & Dot technology, the Skyra strikes a balance between flexibility, accuracy and speed while ensuring image quality meets the excellent standards clinicians at Spire Gatwick require.”

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Picture caption:

Heather Dob, Hospital Director at Spire Gatwick Park and former English rugby union player, Austin Healey cut the ribbon to unveil the MAGNETOM® Skyra 3T MR system from Siemens Healthcare.



Picture caption:

[Left to right:] Austin Healey, former English rugby union player; Heather Dob Hospital Director at Spire Gatwick Park; Rob Roger, CEO of Spire Healthcare; Vince Golledge, Regional Sales and Corporate Business Manager at Siemens Healthcare; David Hillier MR & CT unit Manager and Andrew Gore COO at Spire Healthcare welcome the MAGNETOM® Skyra 3T MR system from Siemens Healthcare.

