

PRESS RELEASE FOR NEW X-RAY PROTOCOL

The Orcas Island Health Care District's (OIHCD) focus is to enable access to affordable, high-quality primary and acute health care. As part of their due diligence, the Board went through a process to assess the status of x-ray equipment at both island clinics. During that process, it was confirmed that the x-ray machine in the UW Medicine Clinic does not function reliably, does not generate quality images, and needs full replacement. As a result, UW patients could face situations that require they travel off island for x-rays that were historically available at the UW Medicine Clinic site. Recognizing the cost and inconvenience for patients, the OIHCD Board has been working with UW Medicine leadership and Orcas Family Health Care (OFHC) to understand all available options.

Over the course of the past few months, the OIHCD Board gathered data to determine the cost of replacing the current machine the replacement cost estimates ranged from approximately \$60, 000 for a used, refurbished machine, to \$90, 000 for a new machine. The Board also explored the feasibility of sharing an x-ray machine between the two Clinics and went through an extensive process to evaluate the x-ray machine at OFHC. This included assessments by UW clinical engineering.

After gathering all the facts on quality and the cost of various options, the OIHCD Board has decided to implement a shared x-ray service between UW Medicine Orcas Island Clinic and OFHC as a temporary solution. This means UW patients will be referred to an external provider for x-rays, including OFHC as one option. The Board and both Clinics are working together to minimize care disruption and make the new process as easy as possible on patients and providers. The OIHCD Board will continue to work with both Clinics to monitor how things are going to make sure this approach is serving the needs of the community.

As always, OIHCD welcomes your feedback and suggestions. Community members are encouraged to attend the Regular meetings of the Board or provide feedback through the District website. Please visit www.orcashealth.org and use the Contact Us tab to see a list of emails for Commissioners and the Superintendent. You can also complete the Contact Us form with your feedback.