

**Belinda Bullard, Marketing Director**

**256-301-3428**

***Belinda\_Bullard@chs.net***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 9, 2007**

***New advanced CT scanner helping Parkway Medical Center diagnose cardiovascular disease earlier***

***Patients will benefit from more definitive, non-invasive exams***

**Parkway Medical Center** announces the recent addition of a highly advanced multi-slice Computed Tomography (CT) scanner to their facility. The hospital's new Brilliance CT scanner from Philips Medical Systems features advanced technology that produces split-second high quality images, permitting doctors to see more anatomical detail in a fraction of the time needed for other tests. With this new CT scanner, ***The Heart Center (THC) physicians*** will be able to more effectively detect and treat a range of life threatening illnesses including cardiovascular disease, the nation's leading killer. Parkway Medical Center is the only hospital in Morgan County affiliated with The Heart Center. The Heart Center brings a wealth of experience to this endeavor providing the largest experience in the Southeast in the performance and interpretation of cardiac CT studies.

The new technology's leap in acquisition speed makes advanced applications such as cardiovascular imaging and whole body CT angiography (CTA) routine. According to Michael Ridner, M.D., THC Cardiologist, "Cardiac CT angiograms represent a revolution in the way we diagnose and ultimately manage coronary disease. The advanced imaging offered by the Brilliance scanner allows early detection and guides management of CAD (coronary artery disease) before major problems develop. The speed of the Brilliance scanner will allow rapid assessment of patients with possible heart symptoms in the Emergency Room. The scanner can acquire accurate images of the heart in less than 10 seconds!"

*- continued -*

Patients needing a CT scan will find that Parkway Medical Center's new scanner offers a much more pleasant experience. Having your heart and coronary arteries evaluated using a CT scanner reduces the need for drugs to regulate the rhythm of the heart. And there is no hospital stay required. With faster scan times patients will usually be asked to carry out one brief breath hold during each scan.

"Older patients and those with breathing difficulties or some other distress will really appreciate the shorter exams," says Dr. Michael Jokich, Radiologist. "We'll have them in and out much faster, and their doctors will be able to access detailed, definitive results within minutes."

All CT scanners use X-rays, however the new Brilliance scanner uses a significantly lower amount of X-ray energy than many of the other CT systems on the market.

"While we need the critical anatomical information we get from a CT scan, we always want to limit the X-ray dose to the patient to the absolute minimum possible, especially for children," says Dr. Jokich. "Our new Brilliance scanner features unique technology that ensures we get exceptional images with significantly lower dose to the patient. And, it has specific built-in pediatric protocols that further minimize the dose to children," he says.

Another advantage the hospital anticipates is the ability to provide more large patients with a CT scan option. The new Brilliance scanner has a table weight capacity of up to 440 lbs.

A CT scan produces a cross-sectional image of the human anatomy which helps the clinician to rule out or confirm the presence of certain disease, and in some cases to evaluate the extent of injuries to a trauma patient, such as someone involved in an automobile accident. During the non-invasive test, the patient is placed on a table and moved incrementally through the squared off donut-shaped scanner while an X-ray beam is projected through cross sections of their anatomy. The X-ray energy passes through the patient and is recorded on electronic detectors in the scanner. This information is then sent to a specialized computer that reconstructs the information into individual slices and combines them sequentially into a comprehensive volume image of the entire area scanned. The thinner the slices, the more revealing the detail is in the resulting images and the more definitive the exam results.

*- continued -*

Parkway Medical Center is pleased to be able to offer this important improvement in healthcare to its patients. Parkway Medical Center has been providing quality healthcare services to the Decatur/Morgan County area since 1974.

For more information contact Belinda Bullard, Marketing Director.

For additional information about Philips Medical Systems, contact:

Heidi Wilson

P: 978-659-7302

Email: [Heidi.Wilson@philips.com](mailto:Heidi.Wilson@philips.com)