



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **IMAGING TECHNOLOGY MOVES FORWARD IN WESTERN TRUST**

The Western Health and Social Care Trust is taking advantage of advances in medical imaging technology to improve diagnostic and treatment services for patients. At the Erne and Tyrone County hospitals, clinicians can now view x-rays and scans on specially adapted computers in the wards, in outpatient clinics, and in the A&E department and similar arrangements are being rolled out in Altnagelvin Area Hospital. This is helping to minimise the need for hard-copy x-ray films and scans to be available and means a number of people in different locations can view the images at the same time to help speed up diagnoses and inform treatment decisions.

Speaking about the advances in imaging technology, Dr Victor Patterson, Visiting Neurologist from the Royal Victoria Hospital, said:

“The radiology service in the Western area, particularly in the Omagh and Enniskillen hospitals, is the most advanced in Northern Ireland. Having access to patients’ x-rays on a computer screen during a clinic, whether that clinic is in Tyrone County or the Erne or at the Royal, is a significant factor in improving the quality of the service we can provide.”

A similar arrangement is being rolled out in Altnagelvin Hospital to allow viewing of CT and MRI images. By the autumn of this year, x-rays previously taken on film in Altnagelvin will be replaced by digital images and viewable at special monitors throughout the Health and Social Care Service.

Lesley Mitchell, Director of ICT for the Western Trust said:

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“The Trust is committed to investment in technology to support and improve patient diagnosis and treatment. It is our intention to target that investment towards areas that will secure real improvement in patient care,” she added.

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