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Minister announces \$550,000 Gamma camera for Liverpool Hospital

NSW Minister for Health Morris Iemma today announced the Government is investing more than half a million dollars to purchase a new gamma camera for Liverpool Hospital, updating superseded nuclear medicine equipment.

“The installation of a state-of-art gamma camera will improve image quality and shorten processing time for reporting, ultimately optimising patient comfort,” Mr Iemma said.

Replacing a 15 year-old existing camera, the camera valued around \$550,000 features DICOM (digital imaging and communication) capability allowing it to be networked to the existing gamma cameras.

The system will also link to the new Picture Archive Communication System (PACS), a medical imaging service to be implemented at South Western Sydney Area Health Service as part of the area’s new clinical plan *The Way Forward 2004 – 2008: A New Health Plan for The People of South Western Sydney*.

Key clinical functions of the new camera include:

- Pre-operative staging of breast cancer for localisation of cancer in regional lymph nodes;
- Paediatric imaging such as detection of fractures, bone infection, kidney infection and function;
- Specialised collimator to assess thyroid and parathyroid glands;
- Ability to perform scans on inpatients on the transporting trolley;
- Cardiac scans such as early detection of ischaemic heart disease and triage of patients with acute chest pain.

The camera will also have the capability to perform in all areas of general diagnostic nuclear medicine.

Mr Iemma said the camera will help to relieve the work-load pressure on the existing cameras, enabling staff to perform urgent scans on inpatients to detect fractures, infection, various cancers, renal, endocrine, gastrointestinal and heart conditions.

“The camera will allow patients to be diagnosed faster and more accurately, to help move patients through the hospital system and lighten pressure on beds.

“In addition the camera will service inpatients from other hospitals within South Western Sydney Area Health Service including Campbelltown and Fairfield hospitals,” Mr lemma said.

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