

Ontario Breast Screening Program News:

Our affiliation with the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP) began at the Uxbridge site on July 15, 2008.

To date, 583 patients have had their mammograms arranged through the OBSP program. The OBSP makes it easy for women ages 50 and over to stay current with screening mammography. Women with no breast disease or implants can self-refer to the program by making an appointment directly with the hospital.

Family doctors are kept informed and receive a copy of the mammogram report. If no abnormality is found, the patient also receives a report and is sent a reminder letter when it is time for her next checkup.

If an abnormality is detected, the patient's family physician arranges an appointment with the Markham Stouffville Hospital Breast Health Centre where the patient has a consultation with a surgeon and other tests if required.

On February 9, 2009 women at the Markham site started enrolling in the Ontario Breast Screening mammography program. The CAR accredited mammography service, affiliation with the Ontario Breast Screening Program, rapid access to the MSH Breast Health Centre and the use of state of the art digital mammography, ultrasound and MRI equipment makes Markham Stouffville Hospital a leader in the fight against breast cancer.

After Hours Service

Our X-ray department is now open Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m., providing 12 hour service for outpatients.

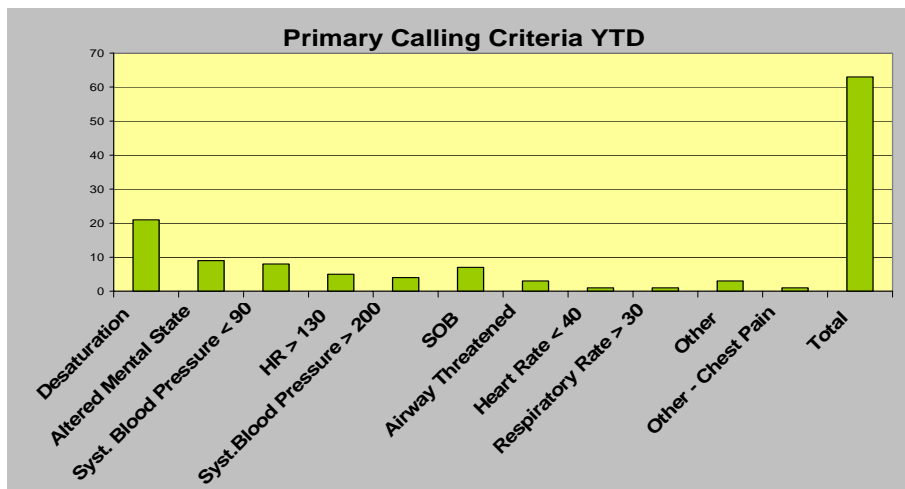
The department is open Saturday from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm and Sunday from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm for walk-in X-ray services.

CCRT Update:

Markham Stouffville Hospital was selected by the MOHLTC to pilot an alternative model Critical Care Response Team (CCRT). The pilot began on April 1, 2008 and the team includes critical care clinicians, an ICU Intensivist, an Intensive Care Nurse and a Registered Respiratory Therapist who bring critical care skills to the bedside throughout the hospital. This early intervention team is structured to identify and treat patients showing signs and symptoms of distress or worsening clinical status in an attempt to prevent further deterioration and cardiac arrest. Since implementation, the team has responded to 63 calls from across the hospital. Of those calls, 65 per cent of patients were stabilized and remained on the patient care unit and 33 per cent were transferred to the ICU. The cardiac arrest rate has dropped from the pre-implementation average number per month of 7.16 (2006/07) to an average of 2.8 per month (2008).

Here is what some nurses at the hospital have said about the CCRT:

- "Excellent service—called twice and the team was fabulous."
- "I am very happy this is available; It saves not only the patient from becoming more critically ill by not having to wait for help, but it saves stress on the nurses because we know we can always get help fast though it may not be a code situation. Thank you for implementing this!"
- "CCRT has improved patient care."



Extended Ultrasound Hours:

Ultrasound appointments are available Monday through Sunday from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

A radiologist is on-site until 8:00 p.m. on weekdays and until 4:00 p.m. on weekends. Some appointment limitations may apply during evening hours.

The new schedule went live in October 2008 and patients have embraced the flexibility offered through booking their ultrasound appointments during off hours.

It is important that patients coming in the evening and weekend hours are prepared with a full bladder if needed for the examination requested.