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West Florida Healthcare's New Wide-Bore MRI Scanner Offers a More Comfortable Scanning Experience with Excellent Image Quality

PENSACOLA, FL – December 29, 2016 – Research has shown that patients' expectations of the MRI experience have shifted in recent years to reflect their desire for more comfortable scanning without compromising image quality. To meet these changing patient needs, West Florida Healthcare has installed a new GE Optima 1.5T wide bore MRI scanner with GEM (Geometry Embracing Method) Suite. While the new technology may be used for a wide range of MRI exams, it is clinically optimized for specific anatomies, including industry-leading cardiovascular, breast, abdomen, spine and extremity imaging.

This new technology offers patients a range of benefits that will make the MRI scanning experience easier and more comfortable, especially for claustrophobic and pediatric patients:

- The "bore" (or opening of the scanner) is wider and shorter.
- Patients enter the scanner feet first instead of head first.
- The system's Acoustic Reduction Technology offers a less noisy scan.
- The aesthetic and comfort-enhancing features of the GEM Suite, such as padding and comfort tilt positioning, help address common causes of patient anxiety and non-compliance during the exam.
- The new system will allow the MRI technologist to be in the room during the scan to assist and offer support to the patient.

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"West Florida Healthcare is proud to offer this exciting new technology to our patients," said Jessica O'Neal, Chief Operating Officer. "This new wide-bore MRI with GEM Suite offers outstanding levels of patient comfort, which contributes significantly to the patient experience."

In addition, the patient table can hold up to 550 lbs. which will enable the system to serve the needs of patients who are obese and require a larger imaging system.

About West Florida Healthcare

The first hospital in the area to offer all private rooms, West Florida Healthcare proudly provides market-leading quality outcomes performance. Named for the second year in a row as one of the "100 Top Hospitals" in the nation by Truven Health Analytics, the facility has also been recognized as a Top Performer on Key Quality Measures for five years in a row by The Joint Commission, earned an "A" rating in patient safety from The Leapfrog Group for three consecutive reporting periods, and named by *Becker's Hospital Review* to its 2016 national list of "100 Great Community Hospitals." The area's first Accredited Chest Pain Center and Breast Imaging Center of Excellence, West Florida Hospital is also the first hospital in the state of Florida to have earned Atrial Fibrillation with Electrophysiology Services Accreditation. The hospital is also an Advanced Primary Stroke Center and offers specialized Emergency Department services tailored specifically to the needs of seniors as well as a Kids' ER dedicated to serving the emergency medical needs of children. The West Florida Healthcare campus includes the all private room acute care hospital, the area's only comprehensive, CARF-accredited physical rehabilitation hospital, and a mental health facility. Affiliated with HCA, the nation's leading provider of healthcare, West Florida Healthcare meets the community's healthcare needs in major services such as cardiology, cardiovascular surgery, oncology, orthopedics, robotic-assisted surgery, critical care, neurology/neurosurgery, emergency care, urology, behavioral health, gastroenterology, obstetrics, pulmonary, and rehabilitative medicine. For more information, visit www.westfloridahospital.com or call (850) 494-3212.

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