

World firsts at the San

In a world-first, recently installed state-of-the-art CT imaging equipment at the San has achieved the reported lowest dose of radiation ever for a Cardiac CT, according to the supplier Siemens, yet still produced the high quality images needed to diagnose and treat disease.

In another world-first, San patients will soon access information that helps them track their lifetime cumulative radiation dose from CT scans, performed at San Radiology. They are part of the \$10million plus investment in San Radiology to make it world class.

"Both these initiatives are a sign of the our commitment to patient centered care" according to Dr Sebastian Heintze, Supervising CT Radiologist.

"We've purchased this new equipment knowing it would enable lower radiation dose, but the results from late February are truly exceptional.

Irrespective of which type of specialist doctor or GP refers the patients to our CT service, we will always strive to deliver the lowest CT X-ray dose whilst always obtaining the best images to facilitate accurate, and quick diagnosis" he says.

"San Radiology has an impressive range of advanced diagnostic imaging tools including digital X-ray, CT, MRI, Mammography and ultrasound; doctors and patients are afforded access to the best technology available in our State.

Whilst we appreciate the need to provide accurate diagnosis and fast-track treatment, we equally understand that unnecessary radiation exposure must be minimised and managed."

Tim McLellan, Section Manager of CT says this aim has been met with the new initiatives.

"Our Siemens FORCE CT (384 slice) has enabled us to achieve the world's lowest radiation dose ever reported for

a CT of the heart.

It is 98% lower than the safety reference guidelines used for CT of the Thorax in Australia, yet produces excellent quality images of the heart blood vessels."

The hospital is also soon to apply new software that will generate a scorecard for patients to inform them and track radiation exposure from various diagnostic tests they undergo over time.

"Patients will be more informed and be able to make informed decisions about their ongoing treatments" says Dr Heintze.

"We've got the people and the tools for world best practice here at the San and are very proud that our patients will be the beneficiaries."



San Radiology's Dr Sebastian Heintze and CT Section Manager Tim McLellan