



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW MRI SUITES SEEK TO PUT PATIENTS AT EASE

**Enhanced Imaging Technology Now Available
at Touro Infirmary and West Jefferson Medical Center**

New Orleans, LA (November 1, 2017) – Imagine... you can choose from a variety of soothing mood-lighting, different genres of music and movies, or a slide show from an image library... all to help you relax and have a comfortable experience. No, we're not talking about a spa day; but, rather, a short session in a state-of-the-art MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) machine!

"Many patients are nervous when they are told an MRI has been scheduled, in part perhaps because they have heard stories from family, friends and neighbors telling them how frightening the scan experience can be," Ted Johnson, Director of Imaging Services, Touro Infirmary.

For some people, the fear of enclosed or small spaces and an aversion to loud noises prevents them from having an MRI. The teams at Touro Infirmary and West Jefferson Medical Center have invested in creating MRI suites that will allow patients to have control over their environment, alleviating much of the anxiety associated with an MRI procedure.

These suites are the first of their kind offered in the New Orleans area. The new MRI units are quieter and faster than their older predecessors, and produce sharp, more detailed images, which allow for imaging of smaller body parts such as the inner auditory canal or the pituitary gland.

With patients being able to set their own mood and preferences, their MRI experience can be greatly enhanced. The suite allows patients to choose the lighting color, music, movie or slide show of familiar images to view and be surrounded by during the actual imaging procedure.

"The well-being of our patients is our number one priority. Thanks to this new technology, imaging times can be decreased by as much as 25-minutes, adding to patient comfort which is critical," said Jeffery Edge, Assistant Vice President of Allied Services for West Jefferson Medical Center.

The addition of the new open-bore MAGNETOM Aera MRI scanner to Touro's and West Jefferson's imaging suites will expand access to diagnostic imaging that supports a complete range of clinical applications and diagnostic possibilities, including: neurology, orthopedics, body imaging, angiography, cardiology, breast imaging, and oncology, providing patients a more comfortable experience. The MAGNETOM Aera offers superb image quality that may be used for a wide range of medical needs – from orthopedic and sports- related injuries to breast cancer testing – and can help physicians make quicker, more accurate diagnoses.

To learn more or schedule an appointment, call Touro at 504-897-8885 or West Jefferson Medical Center at 504-349-6300.

For additional information about LCMC Health or its hospitals, please visit www.lcmchealth.org.

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About LCMC Health

Established in 2009, [LCMC Health](http://www.lcmchealth.org) is a Louisiana-based, not-for-profit hospital system serving the healthcare needs of the Gulf Coast region. LCMC Health currently manages Children's Hospital, Touro, New Orleans East Hospital, University Medical Center New Orleans and West Jefferson Medical Center.

Designed with Patient Comfort in Mind

- Light panels in the room can be set to a calming color of the patient's choice ***keeping them anxiety free*** during the exam.
- The colorful television display and soothing background music allow for a comfortable experience for the patient.

