

MRI for Outpatient Specialty Care

Providing Local Access to Advanced Imaging

Funding Goal: \$1,000,000

An MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scanner is an imaging workhorse, now essential to virtually every medical specialty. Cardiac care after severe chest pain, brain tumor or dementia, breast scans for high-risk patients, orthopedic injury, prostate assessment, pelvic pain and dysfunction — these are just a few situations in which new-generation MRIs can produce clear, detailed images that enable physicians to diagnose with precision and target the most effective course of treatment for each patient.

In 2020, the new Oak Pavilion opened at MarinHealth Medical Center with state-of-the-art MRI equipment to serve its hospitalized patients. MarinHealth also operates an outpatient MRI facility, but one of the two machines there is an older model, and neither supports heart scans. To obtain a cardiac MRI, MarinHealth patients must travel across the Bay to UCSF — often a challenging journey for older patients and those who live in the North Bay and beyond. Put off by travel costs, inconvenience, and wait times of up to 45 days, many patients choose not to visit UCSF for a cardiac MRI, leaving MarinHealth physicians without immediate access to vital information that could dictate whether the patient would benefit from surgery and which medications would be most effective.

There is so much more that MarinHealth physicians in diverse specialties, from cardiology to neurology to orthopedics, would be able to do for their patients with access to current-generation MRI technology. A solution is in sight: With donor support, MarinHealth will purchase a state-of-the-art MRI machine that can support outpatient needs of all kinds. Equipped to conduct cardiac scans and other complex assessments, the new machine will make essential MRIs more convenient for heart patients, in particular — and more targeted, effective, and comfortable for everyone in the North Bay seeking outpatient specialty care.



"MRI imaging plays a key role in so many medical disciplines.

This outpatient equipment will enable MarinHealth to develop exceptional specialty practices in the North Bay and uphold our commitment to providing excellent care close to home."

— Ari Kane, MD,
MarinHealth Radiology (left)

"Cardiovascular MRI has become the gold standard for evaluating many heart conditions. The new MRI equipment we seek will give us a more complete toolkit, dramatically improving our ability to care for cardiology patients who, without local outpatient access, often choose to forgo an MRI in San Francisco."

— Arvind Nishtala, MD, MPH,
MarinHealth Cardiology (right)

Investing in Access and Excellence

Committed to offering the most advanced care possible, MarinHealth wants to provide more patients with the sophisticated imaging capabilities needed to serve them close to home. With demand in the North Bay already high for the advanced scans, we expect the new equipment to provide more than 3,000 MRIs annually.

The benefits promise to be significant: In cardiology, where the course of care hinges on the condition of the heart, physicians will be better able to analyze both tissue and function, discerning between congenital heart failure, a complex challenge, and iron overload syndrome, which is easily treatable. Cardiologists will no longer need to refer patients to UCSF for routine cardiac MRIs. In addition, having advanced equipment within the MarinHealth network will enable cardiologists and radiologists to collaborate closely in real time, delivering more timely results.

Across all specialties, the new outpatient MRI will conduct faster, more complex scans in greater comfort for the patient. Procedures that now take an hour, often requiring drugs to control the patient's heart rate, will be done in 15 to 20 minutes, without drugs. With a wider bore, improved bed, and other features, the new MRI will accommodate a broader range of bodies and evaluate a wider range of conditions with greater precision. For example, monitoring a patient after treatment for a brain tumor, physicians will be better able to discern whether a recurrence of the lesion calls for additional chemotherapy, radiation, surgery, or no intervention at all.

What can philanthropy do?

A new current-generation MRI scanner to meet the demand for outpatient specialty care in the North Bay will make a game-changing contribution to MarinHealth's ability to serve its community. With a single investment, you can help us give North Bay patients local access to essential cardiac imaging and equip MarinHealth with leading-edge scanning technology for use in virtually every medical specialty. As our community grows and matures — and as our care network broadens to include additional specialties — your generosity can ensure that MarinHealth stays in step with the best medicine has to offer.

Outpatient MRI At-a-Glance

- New-generation MRI model equipped with state-of-the-art magnet and advanced imaging software
- Faster, clearer, more detailed images not possible with older scanners
- Quieter, more comfortable patient experience
- Conducts essential cardiac MRIs, eliminating out-of-area travel for patients
- Supports a wide range of specialties, including cardiology, gastroenterology, gynecology, neurology, oncology, orthopedics, and urology
- Centrally located to serve patients from throughout the North Bay

To learn more or make a gift that equips MarinHealth with imaging technology to serve the growing need for specialty care in the North Bay, please contact MarinHealth Foundation at **1-415-925-7770** or **Foundation@mymarinhealth.org**.