



Boundary Community Hospital Expands Advanced Imaging Services with PET and AI-Enhanced MRI

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bonnars Ferry, ID - July 14, 2025

Boundary Community Hospital (BCH) is raising the standard of care in rural North Idaho with two major upgrades to its medical imaging capabilities: the launch of PET (Positron Emission Tomography) imaging services and a significant enhancement to MRI services through artificial intelligence (AI).

PET Imaging: A First for the Region

This summer, BCH became the only facility between Kalispell, MT, and Coeur d'Alene, ID, to offer PET imaging services, a powerful diagnostic tool that captures detailed images at the cellular level. PET scans are commonly used to detect and monitor cancer, evaluate heart function, and assess neurological conditions such as Alzheimer's disease and epilepsy.

"Offering PET imaging locally is a major advancement for our hospital and our community," said Ryan Jenkins, RT. "This service gives patients quicker access to early and accurate diagnoses—especially when time is critical."

Previously, patients had to travel hours to larger medical centers for PET imaging. Now, those in Boundary County and surrounding areas can receive this high-level diagnostic care close to home, with referrals accepted from providers across North Idaho and Northwest Montana.

MRI Services Powered by Artificial Intelligence

In addition to PET, BCH has also upgraded its MRI services through a partnership with Heritage Imaging, implementing deep learning AI software that dramatically improves image quality while reducing scan times.

"AI-enhanced MRI technology allows us to see clearer images faster," said Radiology Manager Ryan Jenkins, RT. "This leads to better diagnostic accuracy, shorter appointment times, and improved patient comfort."

MRI is now available every Thursday and every other Wednesday—doubling mid-week availability and significantly reducing wait times. The AI software improves image sharpness, reduces noise, and enables faster workflows, increasing the number of patients who can be seen each day.

"Our goal is to ensure that patients in rural North Idaho receive the same level of advanced imaging as those in larger cities," said Jenkins. "With the addition of PET imaging and AI-enhanced

MRI, we're removing barriers to early diagnosis and treatment while making care more efficient and accessible."

These upgrades underscore BCH's ongoing commitment to expanding services and investing in technologies that improve outcomes and quality of life for the people of Boundary County.

To learn more or to schedule a scan, contact the BCH Radiology Department at **(208) 267-3141 ext. 4259**.

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