



Testimonial | St. Joseph's Hospital of Syracuse, New York

Carestream's CR, DR Systems Help St. Joseph's Staff Deliver Exceptional Patient Care That Can Save Lives



St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center, Syracuse, N.Y.

Digital imaging delivers dramatic gains in image quality and productivity—and St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center (Syracuse, N.Y.) is a testament to both, according to Robert Whitmarsh, RT (R), CNMT, the hospital's Director of Medical Imaging Administration.

The 431-bed facility began converting to digital imaging in 2003 with two DIRECTVIEW CR systems. Today it has nine DR systems and six CR systems that serve its inpatient radiology department, ER and outpatient imaging center. Thirteen of the hospital's 15 imaging systems are from Carestream Health.

Whitmarsh reports that in 2002, the year before it began converting to digital imaging, the department conducted 105,000 exams with 165 employees. Now it performs 154,000 exams a year with 130 employees. That's a 46 percent *increase* in imaging workflow with 27 percent *fewer* staff.

Evidence of this enhanced efficiency includes:

- The radiology department operates three X-ray rooms—instead of five—for inpatient exams.

- It only needs four portable imaging systems instead of six.
- It added more than 20 orthopedic surgeons to a large multi-physician practice with no increase in imaging systems.

This reduced need for imaging equipment creates a capital savings of almost \$500,000 and an operating/maintenance savings of approximately \$200,000 a year.

In Critical Care Areas, Seconds Count

But efficiency is only part of the story. Improving the quality of images—and the overall quality of care—is also a major focus for the radiology staff.



Robert Whitmarsh, RT (R), CNMT,
the hospital's Director of Medical
Imaging Administration

"We retrofitted all three of our portable imaging systems with DRX detectors. Rapid access to extremely high-quality images significantly improves care for patients in our ER, ICU, neonatal ICU and surgical suites. And when seconds count, these systems can actually save lives," Whitmarsh notes.

One example is the case of a premature baby in the neonatal ICU. The baby's condition suddenly started to decline. The staff took a chest image using a portable X-ray system that had been retrofitted with a CARESTREAM DRX Detector. Seconds later, physicians looked at the image and realized one of the

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baby's lungs had collapsed. They immediately inserted a chest tube to re-inflate the lung.

"Taking the image, making the diagnosis and correcting the problem were all accomplished in less time than it takes to process a CR image. We believe having high-quality DR images available on our portable systems saved that baby's life," reports Whitmarsh.

DRX Detector Equips Physicians to Detect Pneumothorax

"Detecting a pneumothorax is notoriously difficult, particularly in premature infants," he added. "Carestream's DRX-detector delivered the exceptional visualization needed for our physicians to see the problem so they could correct it."

Image quality is also vital for mammography exams. Screening and diagnostic exams are performed on a Hologic FFDM system in an outpatient imaging center located at an attached medical office building. The hospital's mammography department is dedicated to interventional procedures including stereotactic biopsies, needle localization and surgery. In addition to breast MR and ultrasound, the hospital captures X-ray images using a CARESTREAM DirectView Elite CR System.

"CR technology has made great strides in image quality in the last 5-10 years. Our radiologists are as satisfied with the quality of images from Carestream's Elite CR system as they are with images generated on our FFDM system," said Whitmarsh. St. Joseph's radiology staff members and clinicians have been strong proponents of Carestream's CR and DR products because of the company's commitment to continuously enhance image quality and deliver innovative new products and capabilities.

"Carestream delivers CR and DR imaging systems that are designed to set new standards for quality and functionality. And they definitely raised the bar with the wireless, cassette-size DRX-1 detector and the entire DRX family," he said.



CARESTREAM DRX Detector



CARESTREAM DirectView Elite CR System with Mammography Feature