

Customer Case: BETHESDA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, BOYNTON BEACH, FLORIDA, USA

Busy community hospital delivers speedy service with new DX-D 100

Mobile DR solution brings excellent image capture right to patient bedside

INTERVIEWS Fran Lutz, Administrative Imaging Director · Anne Osowski, PACS Administrator · Dr. Steven J. Rooney, Radiologist



For Bethesda Memorial Hospital, home to the Bethesda Stroke Center and the Bethesda Heart Hospital, quick and comprehensive access to patient images is key. Thanks to its two new DX-D 100 mobile DR solutions from Agfa HealthCare, physicians and patients throughout the hospital enjoy excellent image quality as well as speedy service.

The flagship hospital of the not-for-profit Bethesda Healthcare System, Bethesda Memorial Hospital has 401 beds, 600 physicians, 2,300 employees and more than 40 specialty areas. It is a community hospital offering a full array of services to residents of Boynton Beach and beyond. The hospital will open the doors of its newest facility, Bethesda Hospital West, in January, 2013.

This new 80-bed hospital has been designed for growth: it is five stories now, but can go as high as nine, and it has been built so it can expand up to 400 beds. The population of the area is expanding, and Bethesda aims to be ready with the facilities and services it will need. "The community has grown tremendously, and it continues to grow," says Fran Lutz, Administrative Imaging Director.

NEW DR SOLUTIONS TIE INTO CURRENT NEEDS AND SUPPORT FUTURE PLANS

Looking to the future is a central part of Fran Lutz's approach. Five years ago she developed a strategic plan to shift the radiology department at Bethesda Memorial Hospital further towards digital; the recent acquisition of two DX-D 100 mobile DR solutions from Agfa HealthCare is part of that evolution.



"Over the past five years we've been replacing our equipment, and the new mobile DR systems are part of that transition," she says. And over at Bethesda Hospital West, the imaging department will offer the best DR solutions for all modalities.

Bethesda Memorial Hospital uses one DX-D 100 in the emergency department, and another on the floors. They've also purchased another two for use at Bethesda Hospital West, in the ER and OR, and are looking to purchase a third that will be used in the surgery department at the main hospital site.

NEW STANDARDS OF CONTRAST AND DETAIL WITH MUSICA²

For the hospital's radiologists, it is the image quality that is most important. "We do a lot of post-operative chest X-rays, particularly for our heart unit, and with our previous portable X-ray machines the contrast and the detail were just light years away from what it is now," says Radiologist Dr. Steven J. Rooney. "It would be a constant challenge to decide where the tip of the endo-tracheal tube is, where the chest tubes are, where the intra-aortic balloon pump is. Now, with MUSICA² image processing software, it is a pleasure to wade through the dozens of images of ICU, CCU and cardiac patients, instead of being frustrated and complaining about poor images."

From the technologists' point-of-view, the functionality and ease-of-use are just as significant as the image quality. "These

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FRAN LUTZ, Administrative Imaging Director

three things are equally important,” says Anne Osowski, PACS Administrator. “MUSICA² is extremely user-friendly, there’s very little manipulation on our part. We probably post-process, other than annotation, less than 1% of the images we acquire. That really saves on turnaround time when you don’t have to post-process an image.”

WIRELESS FOR FASTER TURNAROUND

The DX-D 100 wirelessly sends images to the hospital’s PACS, using a Wi-Fi network. Technologists can review worklists, and send images, right from the patient’s bedside. “The fact that it is a mobile solution just saves a whole other level of turnaround time on the exam itself,” continues Anne. “Because it is wireless, the radiologist can read the image while the technologist is technically still in the patient’s room. I’d estimate it is a 20-minute time saving for the technologist, from the time it used to take for them to take the image to the time the radiologist can see the image. From the technologists’ standpoint, this is huge.”

DID YOU KNOW...

- » 160,000 procedures are performed per year at Bethesda Memorial Hospital. The radiology department alone performed 67,000 procedures last year.
- » The radiology department has six different digital rooms.
- » The Bethesda Center for Women and Children is the winner of the 2012 Kids’ Crown Award for the Best Pediatrics Hospital in Palm Beach County—voted by the readers of South Florida Parenting magazine. This is the fifth year that the hospital has won the award.
- » Bethesda offers a two-year, full-time radiography program through the Bethesda College of Health Sciences, which has been offering programs for more than 40 years.

INTUITIVE INTERFACE FOR TECHNOLOGISTS

For the technologists, the familiarity of the DX-D 100 contributes to efficiency as well. “The technologists have adapted very well to using the software; we have an advantage because we’ve used Agfa HealthCare software in the past,” says Anne. “The icons are all the same, so by looking at the icons they already knew what each one’s function was.”

“What I like is that Agfa HealthCare didn’t try to re-design how the solution looks and feels to use,” concludes Fran. “The functionality of it is what the technologists are used to.” •



AGFA HEALTHCARE’S CONTRIBUTION

- » Understanding of radiology department workflow
- » Experience with preferred ways of working for technologists
- » Expertise in shortening turnaround times while continuing to improve image quality



SOLUTION

DX-D 100 mobile DR solution

- » Fast high-quality image capture
- » Immediate image validation, transfer and access (HIS/RIS/PACS integration)
- » Specially-tuned MUSICA², for gold-standard image processing
- » Integrated NX workstation, for an optimal workflow
- » Dose reduction potential



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