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One of America's Best Hospitals Relies on InSite One for Long-Term Archive and Disaster Recovery

In a state known more for corn than healthcare is one of America's best hospitals. St Elizabeth Regional Medical Center in Lincoln, NE is rated one of the Top 100 Hospitals by Solucient (an information products company serving healthcare) and recognized as a Magnet hospital by the American Nurses Credentialing Center for excellence in nursing.

Although St. Elizabeth is Lincoln's oldest hospital, it is also the city's most technologically-advanced. As part of Catholic Health Initiatives, the facility is focused on promoting healthy communities through innovative programs, collaborations and partnerships.

This commitment to bringing advanced medicine to the community is clearly evident within the hospital's radiology department. Today's most advanced diagnostic imaging systems are an integral component for the hospitals' mission to provide the highest quality of care.

St. Elizabeth's radiology department performs over 160,000 studies each year and boasts a complete contingent of digital modalities: CR; DR; ultrasound; nuclear medicine; special procedures/interventional angiography;

one each of a four-slice, eight-slice and 64-slice CT; a 1.5T and 3.0T MRI; full-field digital mammography (FFDM); and a PET/16-slice CT system.

When the department went live with PACS in April, 2003, it was clear to Mike Hopkins, Radiology Director, that moving to a digital infrastructure posed several advantages. Most important was the potential to increase clinical efficiency followed by anticipated staff productivity gains. Two other issues weighed heavily; the construction of a new outpatient center connected to the hospital and the implementation of digital mammography.

“By managing images electronically, we can service the referring physicians directly,” Hopkins explained, “and they receive our reports much sooner, wherever they are located.” PACS also provided an efficient means for reading studies generated from both the hospital and outpatient center in one central location.

Yet by 2005, Hopkins and Steve Gerdes, PACS/RIS Administrator, recognized the need for a long-term archive solution. “As our needs became acutely evident, we began to evaluate several vendors and found InSite One to be the strongest

contender for disaster recovery services.” Hopkins was also impressed by the leadership and vision of InSite One and the fact the company would utilize existing infrastructure for implementation of InDex NearLine. “With two locations on opposite ends of the U.S., I felt very comfortable with InSite One's disaster recovery solution,” he added.

Gerdes was also concerned about the remaining capacity of the PACS, particularly with the large files generated by multi-slice CT, MRI and FFDM. InDex provided another storage option as well as complete redundancy to the PACS. “For the first 60 days, images are archived in three places – the PACS, NearLine server and two remote sites for disaster recovery,” he explained. “We wanted 60 days of images on site because at that time, we were still concerned about transmission speeds.”

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St Elizabeth Regional
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Economics was also a deciding factor. “With InSite One’s per-use structure, the cost to store images is less expensive than if we added our own archive solution,” Hopkins added. In fact, Hopkins notes the resulting cost savings by outsourcing to InSite One created an additional operational benefit for his department.

“With InSite One, our department conserves capital dollars than can then be used to purchase new equipment that will have a direct impact on patient care,” he explained. The resulting cost savings are a direct result of the radiology department not incurring additional costs to upgrade hardware or manage images. In fact, the department’s 64-slice CT, 3.0T MRI and the addition of Image-guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT) as a new service have all occurred after the implementation of InDex.

Gerdes believes the department’s recently upgraded infrastructure creates the opportunity to deliver better patient care. “We have removed barriers by providing access to images in less than one minute, which enables the clinician to focus on what they do best – deliver high quality care.” In fact, when a patient checks in for an MR study, the order automatically requests and delivers prior images before the patient is prepped.

“InSite One understands what they do and how it impacts patient care,” Hopkins continued, “which is why they are so good at what they do.” Excellent customer support along with a reliable and seamless service delivers more than cost savings. “The overwhelming benefit is peace of mind.”