

# KODAK DIRECTVIEW CR SYSTEMS

## KODAK CR Systems Vital to Indiana Hospital's New Digital Imaging Environment



Three years ago, radiology staff and administrators at St. Mary's Medical Center of Evansville, Indiana, began evaluating the compelling advantages of converting to a digital imaging environment in general x-ray. St. Mary's is a 392-bed tertiary care center and the foundation of St. Mary's Health System.

"Digital imaging offers greater technologist productivity due to faster patient turnaround, and a more efficient distribution system for reviewing and distributing images," notes Kevin Hendrickson, St. Mary's director of imaging services. "Reliable digital storage and rapid access are also key advantages."

After deciding to implement CR systems to support its PACS project, St. Mary's began evaluating vendors. KODAK CR systems were selected because they offered excellent image quality, productivity-enhancing workflow, and exceptional ease of use, Hendrickson notes.

After evaluating a number of critical issues, the team at St. Mary's determined that improving department productivity was a primary focus.

"When we visited other sites, we realized that Kodak's intuitive user interface, combined with its fully featured remote operations panels, would maximize our staff's productivity. We also realized that this configuration would significantly increase the time our staff remains in contact with patients," he explains.

Hendrickson reports that KODAK CR products also offer rapid installation and smooth integration with RIS and PACS. "Kodak's CR systems are equipped with the full suite of DICOM capabilities and easily networked to our PACS. Our recent installation of a KODAK DIRECTVIEW CR 500 System in the operating suite went flawlessly."

**HEALTH IMAGING**  
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# ST. MARY'S MEDICAL CENTER



*St. Mary's Medical Center is located in Evansville, Indiana. The hospital installed KODAK CR systems throughout the department. All models of KODAK DIRECTVIEW CR systems share the same operator interface, which speeds productivity and training time.*

## BUILT TO BE USED 'RIGHT OUT OF THE BOX'

"KODAK CR systems are built to be used right out of the box," notes Richard Whistine, St. Mary's PACS administrator. "Within an hour, we were viewing images from the new CR 500 on our PACS system. Kodak's support for DICOM and HL7 and other standards make its CR systems easy to integrate."

"Other institutions have told us that it took weeks or even months to get their CR systems to interface to their network or the PACS, but Kodak's CR platform eliminates those concerns," adds Debbie Rickard, RT(R), operations manager of the imaging services department.

### OPERATING SUITE: 18 surgical rooms

- KODAK DIRECTVIEW CR 500 System
- 600 imaging studies a month
- Majority of cases are orthopedic, neurology, and urology studies

She adds that the KODAK CR 500 System "marries excellent image quality and performance with a small footprint that is perfect for the very space-conscious surgical environment."

The desktop CR 500 system is specifically designed for critical care areas, as well as outpatient centers and other low- to mid-volume imaging areas where image quality is critical. It offers the same image quality and productivity as Kodak's premier DIRECTVIEW CR platform in an affordable, compact unit.



*David Bouchie, RT(R), inserts an exposed plate into the KODAK DIRECTVIEW CR 500 Computed Radiography System used in the 18-room operating suite at St. Mary's Medical Center. With its small footprint, the desktop CR 500 system is specifically designed for critical care areas, as well as outpatient centers and other low- to mid-volume imaging areas.*

## CR PLATFORM STANDARDIZATION SUPPORTS EFFICIENCY

A major goal for St. Mary's radiology staff was platform standardization. "We are trying to standardize equipment and processes wherever possible to support greater efficiency and productivity," notes Hendrickson. "The fact that all KODAK DIRECTVIEW CR systems share the same operator interface is a huge advantage since many of our technologists use several models of KODAK DIRECTVIEW CR systems that are located throughout the department."



Debbie Rickard, RT(R), operations manager of the imaging services department at St. Mary's Medical Center, uses one of two remote operations panels networked to the emergency department's KODAK DIRECTVIEW CR 950 Computed Radiography System to evaluate an image. Remote operations panels enable technologists to work closer to patients and provide a fast, convenient way to verify image quality and input patient information.

### EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT (ED):

37 exam rooms

- KODAK DIRECTVIEW CR 950 System can process up to 16 cassettes simultaneously
- Two wall-mounted KODAK DIRECTVIEW Remote Operations Panels enable technologists to work closer to patients and provide a fast, convenient way to verify image quality and input patient information
- 2,400 imaging studies a month

### KODAK TOTAL QUALITY TEST IS 'TIMESAVER'

Image quality maintenance on all CR systems has been streamlined with KODAK DIRECTVIEW Total Quality Tool. This toolkit includes analysis and reporting software, a test phantom, and user guide. Regular testing with this system enables the St. Mary's staff to optimize image quality, minimize downtime, and efficiently generate quality assurance reports, according to Whistine.

"This system is a real timesaver," he notes. "It performs accurate measurements and produces graphs and charts that can be easily imported into our maintenance and quality control reports. The system is fully automatic. All we do is shoot the cassette and run the test software. The analysis is clear, objective, and easy to document."

The hospital also optimized image quality and achieved excellent consistency among images with KODAK DIRECTVIEW

### RADIOLOGY: 5 exam rooms

- KODAK DIRECTVIEW CR Systems provide efficient multiple-cassette processing for radiology department
- 6,000 imaging studies a month

EVP Software installed on each of its CR systems. KODAK EVP Software optimizes images by increasing latitude and providing high-contrast image detail.

Radiographic images from CR and other digital imaging modalities are output onto radiographic film as needed using three KODAK DRYVIEW Laser Imaging Systems.

### CR SYSTEMS COMPLETE DIGITAL CONVERSION

Looking back at the facility's conversion to a digital imaging environment, Hendrickson reports that his staff and the physicians they serve are extremely pleased with the image quality and the rapid, electronic access to imaging studies.

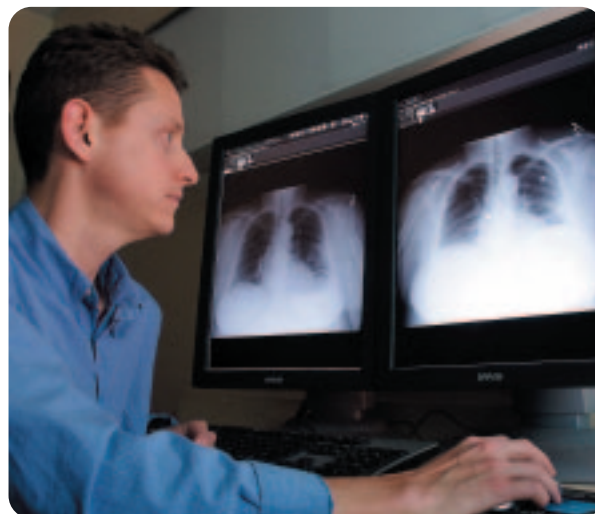
"Our radiologists report that implementing digital imaging has improved image quality, and both in-house and referring physicians appreciate the convenience of being able to access imaging studies and radiology reports from on-site or remote locations. CR is a vital element of our new digital imaging system, and we are extremely pleased with both the enhanced image quality and more productive workflow provided by our KODAK CR systems."



David Bouchie, RT(R), examines an image captured with the KODAK DIRECTVIEW CR 500 Computed Radiography System used in the operating room at St. Mary's Medical Center. The system is used to produce 600 imaging studies each month, primarily orthopedic, neurology, and urology studies.



*PACS administrator Richard Whistine, RT(R)(CT), loads a software update into a PACS server at St. Mary's Medical Center while the director of imaging services, Kevin Hendrickson, looks on. Whistine cites Kodak's support for DICOM, HL-7, and other standards as a key to making its CR systems easy to integrate into the hospital's PACS.*



*Jeff Hemmerlein, M.D., evaluates CR images using the PACS system at St. Mary's Medical Center. The hospital optimizes image quality and achieves excellent consistency among images with KODAK DIRECTVIEW EVP Software installed on each of its CR systems. KODAK EVP Software optimizes images by increasing latitude while providing high-contrast image detail within the same view.*

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viewing images from the new  
CR 500 on our PACS system.”

Richard Whistine, RT(R)(CT), PACS administrator,  
St. Mary's Medical Center, Evansville, IN

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