

# Springfield Clinic Selects KODAK DIRECTVIEW DR 7500 System For Exceptional Flexibility

Orthopaedic Surgeons Appreciate Platform's  
Image Quality, Rapid Throughput

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**Kodak**

# Springfield Clinic Springfield, Illinois

## Springfield Clinic's staff (Springfield, Ill.) left no stone unturned in its evaluation process for a digital radiography platform to serve 70 physicians.

Director of Radiology Frana Evans, BS, RT (R), and her team examined systems from four vendors and flew to several out-of-state facilities for site visits. Imaging studies were reviewed for image quality by the clinic's radiologists and orthopaedic surgeons.

After more than a year of research, Evans' team selected a KODAK DIRECTVIEW DR 7500 System and a KODAK DIRECTVIEW DR 9000 System for its new multi-specialty clinic that sees 100-150 patients a day. In addition to Evans, the team included Brenda Bale, RT, (R)(M), Assistant Director of Radiology; Rita Mudd, Radiology Supervisor; and several radiologists.

The stakes were high. The Springfield Clinic's new 1st Street location houses specialists and surgeons with very exacting standards for both image quality and timeliness. Evans reports the KODAK DR systems not only met—but exceeded—these standards.

"The image quality is exceptional, and the throughput is amazing," Evans notes. "We promised to deliver images to clinicians in 10 minutes, but we are averaging a turnaround of about five minutes. Our Springfield Clinic 1st physicians were skeptical when I promised them they would have the images by the time patients returned to

the exam room. But that's exactly what has happened."

The Springfield Clinic network includes 175 physicians at 20 locations in central Illinois. Referring physicians located outside of the Springfield Clinic 1st Street location appreciate the ability to view images in their offices using PACS, rather than waiting days for a courier delivery.

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### Productivity Leads to Efficient Workflow

Equally important was the DR platform's ability to facilitate an efficient workflow by boosting technologist productivity. "When I saw the DR 7500, I knew I had found what I was looking for. It equips us to efficiently capture everything from weight-bearing feet images to cervical spines and cross table lateral hip exams. Its versatility is unparalleled," she adds.

The DR 7500 offers single or dual-detector options with a wall stand and a table. The wall stand features a unique retractable bucky capable of three-axis movement. The

*Cover photo: Springfield Clinic in Springfield, Ill. has a network of 175 physicians at 20 locations in central Illinois.*

*Near right: Jennifer Sheftick, RT (R), prepares to do a cross-table lateral hip procedure using the clinic's KODAK DIRECTVIEW DR 7500 System.*

*Far right: Orthopaedic surgeon William Payne, MD, examines images captured using one of Springfield Clinic's two KODAK DIRECTVIEW DR systems.*



bucky extends outward from the stand to facilitate imaging exams for wheelchair-bound or seated patients.

The wall stand is configured on a rail system behind the table to expedite cross table exams. The detector is synchronized to the overhead x-ray tube to guarantee accurate source-to-detector alignment. An autopositioning feature enables the equipment to automatically move into position when a technologist selects a preprogrammed exam, according to Bale.

The system also features a fixed, elevating table with four-way float that provides flexible patient positioning. The detector bucky can be extended from the table to accommodate extremity exams, Bale explains.

### **Long-Length CR Exams Integrated with DR Studies**

The clinic's DR 7500 is complemented by a DR 9000, which features a ceiling-mounted U-arm that allows flexible positioning for a variety of imaging exams. Long-length leg and full-length spine exams are captured in one exposure with CR cassettes using a KODAK DIRECTVIEW CR Long Length Imaging System. (A KODAK CR system is located in the clinic's fluoroscopy room.)

The CR system's multi-cassette holder allows up to four cassettes. Kodak's specialized software automatically

stitches the images together to create a seamless image. Clinicians can also examine close-ups of individual images on PACS monitors, Bale notes.

KODAK DIRECTVIEW Capture Link Software enables these CR images to be integrated and reviewed along with DR images as part of a DR exam study. The KODAK CR and DR systems integrated with the existing RIS and PACS flawlessly, Evans commented.

While the clinic does employ CR for limited applications, DR technology earned center stage because of its enhanced productivity. "One of the sites we visited had CR and DR systems in adjacent areas and we were able to view the workflow firsthand. It was clear to all of us that we needed the throughput offered by DR technology," reports Evans.

This expedited workflow allowed the staff to design a building with two general exam rooms instead of the five general exam rooms that would have been required by a film-based system.

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*Director of Radiology Frana Evans, BS, RT (R), and Assistant Director Brenda Bale, RT (R)(M), discuss radiology management issues at Springfield Clinic's newest location.*



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Director of Radiology**

Images from the DR systems are printed on a KODAK DRYVIEW 8900 Laser Imaging System. Evans notes that true-size printing is an important feature because some of the surgeons do manual templating for joint and hip replacements. “Our surgeons had experienced problems templating with images from a hospital printer, so producing true-size images was imperative.”

After almost a year of use, Evans said she would readily consider installing a KODAK DR 7500 system at other Springfield Clinic facilities that are transitioning to digital imaging technology. She adds that since this was a conversion from film-based imaging to digital radiography, she expected a longer and more difficult transition.

“KODAK DR systems are easy to use and our technologists immediately embraced this technology. In fact, technologists, the management team and our physicians are all pleased with the performance of these DR systems,” Evans reports. “I am extremely glad that we made the decision to implement a DR 7500/DR 9000 combination for our newest clinic and I would do it all over again tomorrow.”

Health Group

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