

CASE STUDY

Rural Hospital Goes Digital to Serve Local Community

CHALLENGE

Community Hospital of Bremen in rural northern Indiana's Marshall County is located in the center of a large agricultural community. The hospital recently moved into a new and expanded facility and was seeking a way to better serve the local populace. With a thirty minute drive to downtown South Bend, the hospital provides care for a variety of ethnic groups and ages, including the Amish, who typically do not travel far from home.

SOLUTION

AXS Imaging installed both digital mammography as well as conventional radiography solutions that helped Community Hospital of Bremen maintain high standards of patient care and more readily available access of medical images to physicians. Starting with mammography screening services, AXS Imaging installed a full field digital mammography system that uses computer aided detection (CAD) along with a dedicated mammography workstation in order to obtain the best images possible. These high resolution images allow a radiologist to see the smallest of details thus helping detect cancers earlier when survival rates are at their best and treatment costs are at their lowest.

The second phase of the transition to digital was implementation by use of a computed radiography (CR) system in the general radiology department. Community Hospital of Bremen selected a vendor that had a bundled package of two processing units with multiple cassette sizes. Two processors provide for redundancy and maximum efficiency during busy periods. Both a fluoroscopy room and general radiographic room had the equipment installed within easy reach for the technologists. A film digitizer was also purchased in order to complete the digital upgrade package.

The hospital was challenged to:

- Upgrade its analog mammography screening program
- Provide the best healthcare possible for patients who have limited travel means
- Transition the entire department to a digital medium that provides instant access to information



A few specific products within the AXS solution were:

- **Hologic Selenia** for superior images and diagnostic capabilities
- **R2 CAD** for accurate diagnosis and reduced errors (false positives)
- **Carestream Classic CR Tandem Bundle** for reliability and ease of use
- **Kodak Remanufactured Laser Digitizer**

RESULTS

The transition to digital has allowed local patients the best care possible without having to travel to large cities and downtown hospitals. With the help of AXS Imaging and vendor partners, Community Hospital of Bremen has been able to incorporate the industry's best high tech solutions and bring them to communities where the only means of travel are sometimes horse drawn carriages. Also physicians can now have access to images literally anywhere in the world and at anytime of the day. This powerful technology means that Community Hospital of Bremen is truly a world class organization with hopes of providing the best care possible for patients of all types and backgrounds.