

Case Study | Florida Hospital Tampa

Upgrading CR Software/Hardware Delivers Faster Scanning, Better Image Quality, Lower Dose, Higher Security



A request for long-length imaging turned into a CR software/hardware upgrade using Carestream's Extend Program that delivered substantive benefits for physicians and patients at Florida Hospital Tampa.

"Our clinicians requested long-length imaging capabilities for scoliosis exams, spinal surgery patients and trauma cases," said David Held, the hospital's regional imaging services support engineer. "As we evaluated upgrading our CARESTREAM CR systems, we realized we could also improve image quality, staff productivity and security while lowering patient dose. With these compelling benefits, the decision to upgrade was an easy one."

Carestream's Extend Program allows healthcare providers to maximize their investment by providing upgrades to existing CR and DR systems. These hardware and software enhancements can improve image quality, enhance ease of use, boost staff productivity and streamline workflow. The program also supports specialty applications including mammography, pediatrics and long-length imaging.

As part of the Extend program, Florida Hospital Tampa upgraded both hardware and software for its six CARESTREAM CR 950 and CR 850 systems. After the upgrade, Held reports that staff productivity and patient throughput are

enhanced. "Image quality is also improved and we have been able to reduce dose by 10-15% as a result," he notes.

The long-length CR cassette and automatic "stitching" streamlines imaging for a variety of patients, but its impact is most dramatic in the surgical suite. "In addition to higher image quality, we are saving 20-30 minutes per patient. That time savings translates into a more flexible and productive surgical schedule and less time under anesthesia for our patients," Held explains. The hospital's staff previously conducted long-length exams using radiographic film.

The upgrade also included advanced security capabilities and enhanced virus protection, which Held said was important to maintain tight security for patient data.

The hospital's hardware upgrades included new PCs, 17-inch monitors and 19-inch ROPs (remote operations panels). "The new PCs deliver faster scans and our technologists say the monitors and ROPs are easier to see and to use, which further enhances our imaging workflow," Held said.

The Extend Program upgrade was a complete success, according to Held. "We were able to add important benefits for our clinicians, staff and patients. The upgrade process was streamlined so there was no downtime. Everyone has been extremely pleased with the results."