

***Thumbs Up to Filmless Imaging  
& Advanced Patient Care***



**MOHAWK VALLEY IMAGING**

and

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***St. Elizabeth Introduces PACS Filmless Imaging***

**Providers Can View X-Rays, Other Images  
From Patient Care Units, Office, Home, Anywhere**

St. Elizabeth Medical Center has made an imaging technology upgrade that brings improved care to patients, and filmless diagnostic images to physicians – fast, wherever they are.

It's called PACS, for Picture Archival and Communications System, and it's now being used to display CT scans, MRIs, x-rays and sonograms.

Physicians and Medical Center staff will have immediate access to these critical diagnostic tools via computers in their offices and homes, and at clinical review stations around the Medical Center.

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“No longer will patients, staff and physicians have to wait for hard copies of these images and radiology reports to be delivered,” noted Raphael Alcuri, M.D., a radiologist with St. Elizabeth and Mohawk Valley Imaging. “These images are now sent electronically to a review station where a radiologist will review them. The reports and images will then be available to physicians who are part of the Medical Center’s PACS system or Physician Portal network.”

The caregivers who need patient medical information will get it more quickly. The sooner they have that information, the sooner an accurate diagnosis and treatment options can be identified. That means patients get better care, he said.

“PACS provides immediate access to diagnostic images and reports, anytime, anywhere,” Dr. Alcuri said. “It enables faster diagnosis, facilitates consultation with specialists, and can lead to better patient care. PACS helps physicians manage their time, and improve the quality and timeliness of care for their patients.”

PACS enables providers to view their patient’s new and previous diagnostic images side by side, along with the radiologist’s reports.

Images can be accessed directly through the PACS system, or through the Medical Center’s Physician Portal, where physicians may also review medical records and complete and sign off on reports.

Although using electronic test results saves the hospital – and potentially the patient – money, the biggest advantage from a patient’s standpoint is speed. MRIs, CT scans, x-rays and sonograms are often used to diagnose problems that are potentially life-threatening or affect quality of life. With the PACS system, the agonizing wait can be reduced virtually to real time.

“It’s minutes as opposed to hours,” Dr. Alcuri said. “The radiologist who reads the image can see it before the patient leaves the Medical Center or the Marian Medical Imaging outpatient facility.”

“Technology advances are improving the ways we provide care,” Dr. Alcuri added. “Our PACS system is on the cutting edge of this technology.”

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