

Adventist Health Sonora: A Digital Radiology Success Story

Sonora Regional Medical Center is a 152-bed hospital in Sonora, California, which serves a large area in Calaveras, Tuolumne and portions of Mariposa counties.



The Success Story

Sonora Regional Medical Center in Northern California, is part of the Adventist group and provides the local community with an extraordinary medical team of world-class physicians and specialists, caring professional staff, advanced medical technology and award-winning quality healthcare in the heart of the Mother Lode near Yosemite National Park.

Sonora Regional Hospital stands out in its commitment to provide the same level of care that patients expect in large urban centers. When Jerry Kurtz, Director of Imaging Services at Adventist Health Sonora Regional, decided to convert the hospital's radiology department and affiliated sites to direct digital radiography (DR), the goal was to improve the patient experience and clinical results while enhancing the medical staff's productivity. Kurtz asked his team to evaluate different options and consider the hospital's long and successful relationship with Konica Minolta Healthcare as a provider of high-quality computed radiography (CR) products and the outstanding support of the company's local distribution partner, California Imaging Services (CIS).

The selection criteria for technology was based on a fundamental need: the right technology to provide state-of-the-art care and achieve cost efficiencies in all care settings. Ed Quarrato, Manager of Diagnostic imaging at Adventist Health Sonora says, "We believe that care is a continuum of events that can start at any point and may continue throughout the system. Our goal is to provide the same quality of care whether the patient is in the hospital or at one of our regional clinics."

After evaluating multiple options, Sonora Hospital choose Konica Minolta's AeroDR[®] as the wireless DR platform and CIS and its channel for local support. Kurtz explains, "When evaluating technology, the AeroDR system provides the image quality and operational efficiencies we look for in a leading-edge imaging solution. The high marks for customer satisfaction received in MD Buyline reports confirmed what we already experienced. Konica Minolta stands behind its partner CIS to ensure our solutions continue to work for us in the long run."

All Sonora's X-ray devices were upgraded to digital between April 2016 and May 2017 "After the installation, we were pleased by the quality and efficiency of the systems across the board." Added Quarrato

According to Kurtz, there were several areas where the performance of the AeroDR detectors exceeded expectations in unprecedented ways. "Using DR allows our orthopedic surgeons to see images within seconds instead of a few minutes. This did not seem like a big deal at first, but when the staff confirmed that DR can save an average of 30 minutes per procedure, this means less idle time for the staff and greater utilization of our imaging assets. That translates into better care and over \$1,000 in savings per procedure for the hospital.

"I highly recommend AeroDR, Konica Minolta and its distribution partners as a solution that helps healthcare providers improve clinical results and efficiency, no matter where they are located," Kurtz says.

¹ <http://www.ajmc.com/newsroom/what-are-the-implications-of-the-costs-of-operating-room-time>

