

GMH switches from film to digital X-rays

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

Thursday, 01 July 2010 20:40 - Last Updated Thursday, 01 July 2010 20:44



Improved images transferred to state-of-the-art computer system.

Gothenburg Memorial Hospital radiology staff have taken a giant technological step.

On June 23, the department began using computed radiography where phosphor plate detectors are used in X-rays instead of film.

GMH imaging supervisor Julie Koehler said the new system captures patient X-rays and transfers the data to a state-of-the-art computer system.

“The result is an electronic X-ray image that offers health-care professionals a much improved visual of patient anatomy and pathology as compared to plain X-ray film,” Koehler explained.

The electronic image can also be digitally enhanced, she said, to focus on a region of interest so physicians can provide a more accurate patient diagnosis.

In addition, Koehler said the new system brings about improved efficiency for the radiology staff and other health-care professionals in terms of accuracy and speed in obtaining images.

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Another benefit allows radiologic technologists who take the X-ray more time to enhance the digital image and spend more time with the patient in the exam room, she said.

Before the transition, Koehler said an X-ray would be taken and the technologist would develop the film.

“You’d wait about 90 seconds per film for it to process before viewing it and showing it to or sending it to the physician,” she explained.

Now the image is loaded into the computer,

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