



For immediate release

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ST. JOSEPH HEALTH SYSTEM NOW OFFERS DIGITAL MAMMOGRAPHY

As part of St. Joseph Health System's commitment to enhancing women's healthcare throughout the region, the health system is proud to announce we are offering full field digital mammography. The addition of digital mammography services will achieve a higher standard of quality care for patients seeking breast health imaging services.

The American Cancer Society's most recent estimates for breast cancer in the United States include, 192,370 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women, about 62,280 new cases of carcinoma in situ (CIS) will be diagnosed (CIS is non-invasive and is the earliest form of breast cancer) and about 40,170 women will die from breast cancer. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women, exceeded only by lung cancer.

"The digital mammography system offers improved clarity for breast imaging. The service will enhance patient safety by decreasing exposure to radiation and has the ability to save lives through early detection", said Mike Florip, Director of Radiology Services at St. Joseph Health System. Digital mammography was developed in part to address some of the limitations of film mammography, separating image acquisition and display, allowing the optimization of both, enhancing interpretation by image manipulation and improvement in storage and transmission.

Like traditional film screen mammography, digital mammography uses X-rays to produce an image of breast tissue. However, the images are captured digitally and stored on a computer, rather than on X-ray film. Digital mammography allows for faster exams for patients because technologist can immediately check image quality during an exam. The digital mammography equipment cuts down on examination times for patients and may reduce the need to re-image a breast.