

# NEWS Ephrata Community Hospital

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## **EPHRATA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL ADDS POWERFUL NEW TOOL IN FIGHT FOR EARLY DETECTION OF BREAST CANCER**

Ephrata Community Hospital has advanced the fight against breast cancer by installing a new cutting edge digital mammography system for its patients. Digital mammography will be available for patients at two imaging locations: The Center for Women's Health in the Ephrata Health Pavilion, Ephrata and the Center for Health at Garden Spot Village, New Holland.

This system, a GE Healthcare Senographe Digital Mammography system, provides physicians with clear and precise all-digital images, rather than images on X-ray film. What's more, the system provides the largest field of view currently available, which can be extremely helpful for precision imaging of patients with diverse shapes and sizes.

"This is new and powerful technology for the detection and fight against breast cancer," says John Nawa, M.D., Imaging Department Chair. "Digital systems such as the new Senographe Essential allow us to offer our patients state-of-the-art mammograms that are fast and easy. And it gives our referring physicians accurate images to use in diagnosis."

In Pennsylvania, it is estimated that more than 9,000 new breast cancer cases will be diagnosed this year. Mammograms are among the best early detection methods, yet 13 million U.S. women 40 years of age or older have never had a mammogram, according to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.

"This new digital technology is both accurate and easy to use for our patients," says Dr. Nawa. "Providing outstanding screening equipment for patients is a vital step to good preventive health, and one we take very seriously."

There are many advantages to a digital system. The images are clear and easy to read, and it offers an excellent view of the breast, especially near the skin line, chest wall and in women with diverse breast tissue types. The digital image is ready to read within 10 seconds – there is no longer a wait for films to be developed to be sure the images are usable. Digital mammograms take as little as half the time of film. And if a second opinion is needed, the image can be sent electronically to a consulting physician virtually instantaneously.

To schedule an appointment for a digital mammogram, call the Ephrata Community Hospital Imaging Department at 717-738-6850. For more information about breast health, mammography and women's health services, contact the Center for Women's Health at 717-721-5750.

Ephrata Community Hospital has been serving the health needs of northern Lancaster County for more than 65 years. Ephrata provides a wide range of inpatient and outpatient care for people of all ages. In 2009, Ephrata Community Hospital was recognized as one of the 100 Best Places to Work in Pennsylvania. For more information visit [www.ephratahospital.org](http://www.ephratahospital.org)

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