

# InFocus

Carestream Health's digital solutions at work

Converting to DR workflow and productivity is fast, easy and cost-effective with the CARESTREAM DRX-1 system. Simply slide the wireless, cassette-sized DR detector into your existing bucky just like a conventional cassette for DR quality images without the usual retrofit, wires or hassle.

## The Alfred sets the pace with first-in-class DRX-1 system

It may be one of Victoria's oldest hospitals but The Alfred in Melbourne is always ready to implement new models of care to advance the efficiency of its service delivery. A luminary pacesetter in the national healthcare arena, it was the first public hospital in Australia to become filmless. It is now the first site in Australia to use the world's first wireless DR detector.

With the radiology department performing over 130,000 exams per year, improving patient throughput is an organisational imperative, said Business Manager Karen Hall. 'A key challenge for Alfred Health is managing patient access and patient flow. Like any public hospital, there is a lot of pressure on beds. We can't afford to be the link in the chain that holds patient discharge up. In that regard, the department works to continually improve its systems, processes and practices.'

The CARESTREAM DRX-1 system is helping the department to improve the timeliness of care for patients while better utilising its available capacity. 'In our general X-ray area, we had one DR

room and four analogue X-ray machines using CR plates. The DRX-1 system was a very affordable way for us to upgrade an existing X-ray room with good equipment from analogue to DR. There were minimal building costs [mainly extra data points and power points] and immediate productivity gains,' said Karen.

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General X-ray room 5, now home to the CARESTREAM DRX-1 system, services a diverse client base. In addition to inpatients from the hospital's burns and trauma units, the room also supports a large population of outpatients. 'The room is used for multiple exam types, from elderly patients in traction with broken limbs who have to be lifted onto the table, to multi-trauma and burns victims. In these cases, it's particularly helpful to have a wireless detector that you don't have to reposition between projections,' said Ben Grinstead, Tutor Radiographer.



## CARESTREAM DRX-1 delivers CR flexibility with DR image quality

A DR detector in the size and form of a cassette means the CARESTREAM DRX-1 system has innate flexibility and can be used wherever it is needed, said Gillian Tickall, Chief Radiographer. 'Our use of the detector is fairly evenly spread between the vertical bucky and out-of-bucky applications. However, the detector's thin width means we can also use it for tabletop projections and can easily put it under a trolley-bound patient to do extremity work too.'

This flexibility, combined with the wireless nature of the CARESTREAM DRX-1 system, has helped streamline patient positioning, said Ben. 'The DRX-1 is great for exams where you need to angle across the detector or where you need to put it adjacent to a body area where you can't fit an existing digital detector. You can get the DRX-1 detector under a broken limb post-operatively with ease as opposed to a big, bulky detector with a cable attached. It has definitely sped up our workflow in between patients and improved overall patient flow, particularly for outpatients.'

'Because it takes only 6–8 seconds for the raw image to appear, we can verify positioning almost straightaway. We can also get some idea of exposure index at that time. It's nice to have the benefits of a CR cassette with the timeliness of a DR imaging sequence,' he said.

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The CARESTREAM DRX-1 system also delivers lower radiation doses with DR image quality, said Gillian. 'We've been able to achieve a significant dose reduction with the DRX-1. Despite this, its image quality is the same as our other DR units but better than CR. It *can* be better than other DR units for imaging heavy patients, but only if used in combination with expert bucky techniques.'

## No retrofit. No wires. No hassles

Taking less than two hours to install and even less time to train staff, the CARESTREAM DRX-1 system was operational by the afternoon of the same day, said Gillian. 'The unit was basically wheeled in, screwed to the wall and up and running in two hours. It took about 15 minutes to introduce somebody new to the unit and train them in the basics before they started using it. It was all very quick and easy. We can definitely see this type of digital solution having use in other parts of the hospital.'

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Alfred Radiology may be one of the most experienced and advanced radiology departments in the country but its team has been easily impressed by the CARESTREAM DRX-1 system, said Karen. 'At the moment, there are no other vendors in Australia that offer this solution. This is the first time this technology has been available. We're very excited to be able to partner with Carestream Health and to be the first to install and use this state-of-the-art equipment.'



The Alfred's General X-ray room 5 is now home to the CARESTREAM DRX-1 system.

For more information about Carestream Health, visit [www.carestreamhealth.com](http://www.carestreamhealth.com)

Carestream Health Australia Pty Ltd 27 Church St Richmond VIC 3121 PO Box 2480 Fitzroy VIC 3065 Tel: 1300 651 786  
Carestream Health New Zealand Ltd Level 1, Guthrey Pacific House, 93 Manchester St Christchurch 8011 PO Box 700  
Christchurch New Zealand 8140 Tel: +64 3 379 4760

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