

The Savings Solution

At Sparrow Health System, **aycan xray-print solutions** are bringing down film costs and streamlining image-intensive processes.



"Our aycan systems are reliable, produce very consistent images, and they are reducing our costs."

John Sherman,
Radiology PACS Manager, Sparrow Health System

BACKGROUND

The roots of Sparrow Health System in Lansing, Michigan go back to 1896. For more than a hundred years, Sparrow's dedicated professionals have been working to improve the health status of the people of central Michigan, providing cost-effective, quality care that is nationally recognized for its excellence.

At the Level 1 trauma center, approximately 250,000 radiology procedures are performed each year. Sparrow's PACS was implemented in February, 1999. Currently, there are over 30 million images, representing all modalities, stored on the system.

CHALLENGE

Operating at this level, the costs of film imaging were significant. And, as Sparrow's services and patient base grew, it was obvious that film costs would also continue to rise. Any efficiencies that might bring those costs under control would be welcome.

"We had been using a wet laser printer," said John Sherman, Radiology PACS Manager for Sparrow Health Systems. "But with our throughput, we just about beat it to death. It was relatively slow, and maintenance was becoming an issue."

Sherman continues: "In an image-intensive environment such as ours, we needed a solution to reduce the amount of film spending. But we couldn't compromise on image quality, and we needed a large-format solution that could handle 11" by 17" paper and print several images on each sheet. "When Sherman visited the aycan Medical Systems booth at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America in November of 2003, he thought he might have found the answer he was looking for: the **aycan xray-print solution**, which prints radiological images on paper at near film quality.

SOLUTION

In early 2004, Sparrow Health System purchased an aycan solution as a primary means for printing medical images on plain paper. Since then, Sparrow has purchased two more aycan solutions for use within the main radiology department and for an offsite-imaging center. Pathologists also use it for forensic work.

"Delivery, installation, implementation – all met or exceeded expectations, including the training," said Sherman. "It took one day to set up each aycan solution and make sure the quality was up to par. The aycan engineer did an excellent job, working closely with our radiologist and staff to achieve optimal image quality."

Since then, printing on paper has become very popular at Sparrow Health System facilities.

"I'm not sure we'll ever see the day when we're not printing film," said Sherman. "Our neurosurgeons still prefer film, and we currently print all their MRI's on film. But for other modalities, printing on paper goes a long way toward cutting our costs, and once I saw the aycan solution, I realized there's just no comparison with other paper systems."

RESULTS

aycan optimized quality of the prints for each modality individually.

John Sherman says that system employees and referral physicians are very satisfied with the results so far.

"I have not heard any negative comments as far as switching to paper prints," said Sherman. "Image quality has been very consistent and I haven't heard of a single reliability issue such as paper jams, which speaks volumes for aycan because we crank out a lot of paper."

As far as return on investment, thousands of dollars in film costs have been saved by printing to paper.

In addition, Sparrow has seen a considerable reduction in chemistry usage and service maintenance costs associated with keeping its wet laser up and running. And the staff has saved several hours per week simply by not having to leave their work area to pick up printed films at the wet laser because the aycan solution is located right in their work environment.

John Sherman says the aycan solutions are "very usable in just about any x-ray environment." In regard to working with aycan, he added: "They have top-notch people in their organization. From sales through implementation, they took pains to answer every question we had. They couldn't have been more helpful."

aycan's **xray-print** solution prints radiological and other medical images on plain paper at near film quality. It fits seamlessly into both traditional and PACS workflows, integrating with hospital databases using the DICOM 3.0 standard. Images can be received from any modality and printed on a certified aycan printer. The aycan **xray-print** solution makes it possible to share very high quality images while reducing film costs by up to 90%.

For more information on aycan and the aycan **xray-print** solution, visit www.xray-print.com or contact us at info@aycan-medical-systems.com

aycan is a leading provider of plain paper imaging solutions for radiology.

