

Oakwood Hospital & Medical Center Dearborn, Michigan, USA



Seeing is believing with premium
diagnostic displays featuring automatic
QA capabilities



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David Yates, M.D.,
Radiology Department Head



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Information Technology

The road to filmless radiology in the Oakwood Healthcare System begins with the main hospital in Dearborn, Michigan. Oakwood Hospital & Medical Center is a 620-bed, full-service teaching hospital with state-of-the-art services in diagnostic imaging, emergency medicine, cardiology, surgery, labor and delivery, neonatal intensive care, intensive care and coronary units. Barry Castle, Project Manager Information Technology, manages all clinical projects, including PACS, for the radiology department. His quest for high-quality, reliable displays led him to Barco and its industry-leading CORONIS premium diagnostic display system featuring the unique I-GUARD technology.

“The biggest question we had was how we could guarantee that the images were going to look the same on every monitor,” Castle explained. His investigation of existing display technology uncovered the fact that only one company — Barco — offers a suite of softcopy quality assurance solutions for the medical marketplace. “We looked at the others, and they didn’t have a QA system like Barco.”

MEDICAL ADMINISTRATOR is Barco’s hospital-wide image quality management system. According to Castle, the system tells him when there is a problem with a particular display. “It is the most accurate method to insure that our monitors are giving a consistent image.”

MEDICAL ADMINISTRATOR offers remote QA functionality, stores the performance history of each individual display and generates customized reports and automatic alerts. For Castle, it is the primary reason why Barco is now Oakwood’s preferred vendor for medical display solutions.

Oakwood is using Barco CORONIS displays exclusively for all radiology softcopy diagnosis and interpretation. The facility currently has 24 diagnostic-quality 3 MegaPixel (MP) displays and approximately 20 clinical 2 MP review workstations. “The images are beautiful, the displays are excellent quality,” raves David Yates, M.D., Radiology Department Head, adding that the built-in QC capability - I-GUARD - was the feature that sold him on CORONIS and Barco.

An industry first, the I-GUARD sensor ensures consistent image quality and continuous DICOM-calibration from day to day and across all of Oakwood’s CORONIS displays.

“Quality assurance was the key factor in selecting Barco,” Castle said. “The human eye cannot pick up subtle differences between monitors. The I-GUARD really sold us.”

I-Guard assures clinical confidence

As head of the radiology department at Oakwood Hospital, Dr. Yates has plenty to worry about. Yet, clinical confidence that the image he views on a CORONIS display is consistent and accurate is no longer a concern. "We have a dozen different locations where I can read studies, with double that in actual workstations," Dr. Yates said. "When I sit down at a CORONIS workstation with I-GUARD, I am confident that I am looking at the same quality of image and consistency of any workstation in the facility. It improves my level of confidence."

Likewise, Castle is confident that he has provided clinicians with the most accurate, continuously calibrated display systems in the industry.

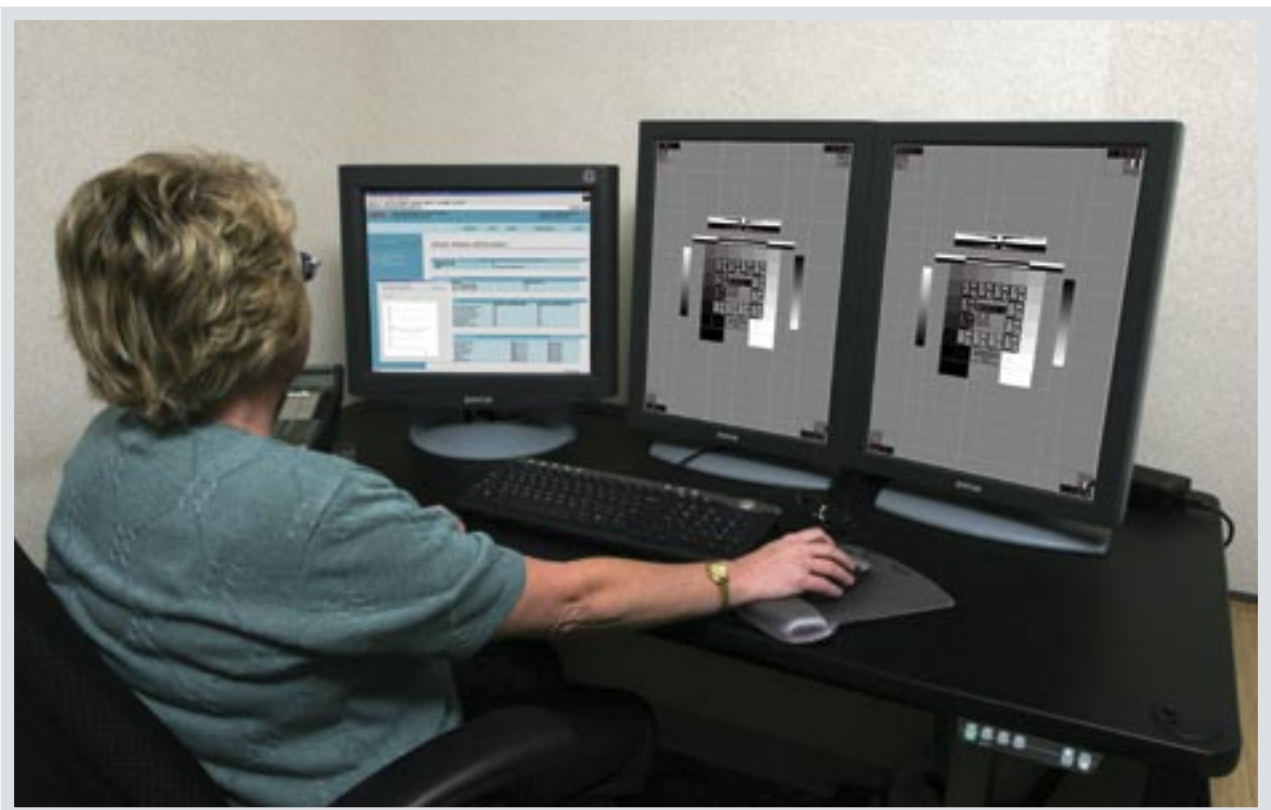
"If the JCAHO were to ask me today for our QA documentation on these monitors, I could simply query that report and give them the information they need."

Another impressive feature of MEDICAL ADMINISTRATOR is Castle's ability to query reports to document the QA of the CORONIS monitors. "I know this will become a requirement of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) as more healthcare systems bring images online. If JCAHO were to ask me today for our QA documentation on these monitors, I could simply query that report and give them the information they need, including how often the monitors are analyzed for problems and, if one was found, what we did to fix the problem."

Coronis an adjunct to PACS improving clinical efficiency

While PACS is the vehicle that improves clinical efficiency, CORONIS is the steering wheel that drives clinical confidence. Dr. Yates' ability to rapidly and accurately interpret images while I-GUARD monitors and adjusts luminance translates to a greater comfort level in softcopy diagnosis. "It is really remarkable the level of grayscale discrimination that I-GUARD performs on a routine basis."

Additionally, the viewing angle and protective front glass come in handy when reviewing images with residents. Thus far, Dr. Yates has not experienced a problem when three to four residents are crowded around a CORONIS display. Also, the protective glass is "a significant



advantage” when pointing out specific aspects of an image to residents. “It is nice to just take a cloth and wipe off the glass. Oakwood even saved the cost of mounting monitor arms thanks to the sturdy, adjustable tilt and swivel display base.

“There are a lot of good, high-quality display monitors out there, but to see one that actually solves one of our problems by assuring image quality and monitor consistency is amazing,” Dr. Yates concluded.



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