



Press Release
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Imaging Capabilities Keeps Local Hospital Ahead in Patient Care

Advanced equipment, such as digital mammogram unit, and specialized team helps physicians diagnose and treat patients.

PECOS, Texas (Jan. 16, 2023) – Diagnostic imaging in the medical field has undoubtedly transformed how physicians diagnose, monitor, and treat patients with various medical conditions. Whether an ailment calls for an MRI, CT scan, digital x-ray, digital mammogram with tomosynthesis, or virtually any other imaging service, many local residents are often surprised to learn that Reeves Regional Health (RRH) has advanced radiology capabilities that rival larger hospitals in the region.

“We now have many wonderful medical imaging capabilities available here at Reeves Regional, and they continue to be some of the most important services we provide to our community,” says Brenda McKinney, CEO of the local health system. “While we have just recently moved into our new hospital, we are already hearing from our patients how our new facility is so much better. That includes our imaging capabilities.”

In early November, RRH began serving patients from a new 140,000-square-foot medical campus, replacing a nearly 45-year-old hospital nearing the end of its usage. As a critical department at RRH, Diagnostic Imaging, received much thought during the design process of the new hospital campus.

Keeping the current needs in mind and planning for the future, the new hospital has a more spacious imaging department, approximately five times larger, to house all necessary equipment with room for additional services. More importantly, the new space brings added comfort for patients waiting for services. “Our goals thought the design of the Imaging Department revolved around patient comfort and added services for patients.”

The imaging department at RRH, sometimes called radiology, provides an extensive array of modern diagnostic imaging services such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), digital mammography, computerized tomography (CT) scans, and ultrasound exams, among others.

Patient experience and more room were not the only upgrades to the department with the move. According to Juan A. Ramirez, Director of Imaging at RRH, the new facility brings mostly new equipment that brings the hospital into the modern era.

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"We brought a few of the current equipment from our old facility, but for the most part, many of our essential scanners and machines are brand new to us," Ramirez says.

Improved Capabilities

One of the most exciting changes to the department is the permanent installation of a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine.

Previously, the hospital had a mobile unit outside the hospital that patients had to walk to for scans. Now, the technology is in-house, providing greater convenience without walking outside in the elements.

"Anyone who previously experienced getting an MRI in Pecos will know that it was not particularly a fun experience," Ramirez explains. "Now, in our new hospital, the process is simple: a dedicated room, ambient lighting, and even music with headphones to help ease the patient's nerves and make them more comfortable."

The hospital also has a new computerized tomography (CT) scanner. Blazing in speed and image quality, the new scanner is upgraded from older 16-slice technology to 64-slice capability. The difference means that RRH can provide medical providers with images in greater detail, making diagnosing conditions much more efficient.

The new CT equipment is now housed in a more patient-centric environment, with soothing murals, relaxing ambient lighting, and faster scan times for patient comfort.

For breast cancer screening, RRH has new digital mammography equipment that improves imaging capabilities and makes the process more comfortable for the patient.

"One of the great things about our new mammogram machine is that that patient can be part of the process," Ramirez explains. "There is a pressure bulb on our new screener, so the patient can participate for their comfort without compromising the quality of our images."

Regarding ultrasound services, RRH provides general, vascular, and echocardiogram ultrasound capabilities. According to Ramirez, these procedures have an image quality significantly better than previously available.

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Lastly, diagnostic radiology also received new capabilities at the replacement hospital. The service is all-digital now, providing medical providers with better images in seconds. Best of all, Ramirez says that the new machine uses low-dosage technology, which means that patients are exposed to the least amount of radiation possible while still allowing technicians to capture optimum images.

New Service Added

Bone mineral density (BMD) screening is a new service added to the department. These tests help medical providers assess and develop treatment plans should you be at risk for bone conditions such as osteoporosis. BMD tests also help predict the likelihood of bone fractures and preventative measures to be prescribed to improve bone health.

Ready for the Future

With the new hospital and improved diagnostic imaging department, Ramirez says that he and our entire professional team is excited to serve the patients in Pecos and the surrounding communities. Ramirez adds that those who utilized the department in the past will experience something vastly different in the new hospital.

"We are incredibly privileged to have such a beautiful facility with many amazing imaging capabilities. These services are not always available at rural hospitals," Ramirez says. "Professional healthcare services are what our community expects. It's our duty and pleasure to ensure that we can provide that with the local convenience they need."

For more information about diagnostic imaging and radiology services at RRH, please call 432-447-7908 or visit www.reevesregional.com.

About Reeves Regional Health

Reeves Regional Health (RRH), formally known as Reeves County Hospital District, provides healthcare services for Reeves County and neighboring West Texas communities. Founded in 1954, RRH, a Level IV Trauma Center, offers various medical services, including emergency care, diagnostic imaging, physical therapy, general surgery, a clinical laboratory, and more. RRH also operates Reeves Regional Home Health and Hospice, and Reeves Regional Rural Health Clinic. In November 2022, RRH began serving patients from a new \$115 million, 140,000-square-foot campus. For more information, please visit www.reevesregional.com.

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