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French Hospital Medical Center Acquires the General Electric CT 128 Slice GE Optima 660

State-of-the-art technology provides advanced imaging capabilities used to study all parts of the body

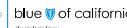
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – October 14, 2015 – French Hospital Medical Center (FHMC), a member of the Dignity Health system that locally also includes Arroyo Grande Community Hospital and Marian Regional Medical Center, is proud to announce the purchase of the technologically advanced General Electric 128 Slice Optima 660 CT scanner. This new versatile CT machinery is comfortable for patients of all ages and virtually all sizes and will deliver exceptional image quality with a single, low dose scan.

The 128 Slice GE Optima 660 CT scanner contains advanced cardiac CT abilities and will also be used for a broad range of health care services provided at French Hospital – angiography, brain, chest, abdomen, orthopedic, and more. The system includes the latest in radiation dose reduction software called Adaptive Statistical Iterative Reconstruction (ASIR). Furthermore, the CT scanner uses an innovative, projection-based imaging method that delivers exceptional image quality called Smart Metal Artifact Reduction (MAR). MAR is designed to reveal anatomic details obscured by metal artifacts, helping physicians utilize CT scans and diagnose conditions with greater confidence.

“MAR uses an automated, three-stage projection based process to help improve the quality of CT results within the projection space, rather than in image space,” explains Greg Blishak, French Hospital’s Radiology Director. “This innovative method helps to reduce artifacts caused by metal in the body, such as hip implants, spine screws and dental fillings.”

In addition to the 128 Slice GE Optima 660 CT scanner, Dignity Health Central Coast will be installing two new GE SenoClaire 3D Breast Tomosynthesis (DBT) mammography imaging machines at FHMC and its outpatient facility, San Luis Diagnostic Center located in Downtown San Luis Obispo.

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“The new CT installation, as well as the 3D Breast Tomosynthesis imaging technology additions, are part of our continued commitment at French Hospital and Dignity Health Central Coast to provide patient care that meets the highest standards of quality, safety, and service,” says FHMC President and CEO Alan Iftiniuk.

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About French Hospital Medical Center

French Hospital Medical Center, located in San Luis Obispo, California, has been named one of the Nation’s 100 Top Hospitals by Truven Health Analytics, and is rated among the top hospitals in the nation for cardiac, orthopedic and GI services. French Hospital has achieved prestigious designation as a Primary Stroke Center by the Joint Commission. The Copeland, Forbes, and Rossi Cardiac Care Center provides the latest innovative cardiac and imaging technology. The hospital is home to the unique Hearst Cancer Resource Center offering free education, resources and support to cancer patients and their families. In addition, an expansion and modernization project is underway at French Hospital, including construction of the Copeland Health Education Pavilion, which will provide community access to comprehensive health care education resources free of charge. French is a Dignity Health Central Coast hospital which also includes Arroyo Grande Community Hospital in Arroyo Grande, CA, Marian Regional Medical Center in Santa Maria, CA, St. John’s Regional Medical Center in Oxnard, CA and St. John’s Pleasant Valley in Camarillo, CA. Dignity Health Central Coast is an integrated network of top quality hospitals, physicians from the most prestigious medical schools, and comprehensive outpatient services including primary care offices, premier ambulatory surgery centers, technologically-advanced laboratories and imaging centers and a full service home health agency; all recognized for quality, safety and service. Each hospital is supported by an active philanthropic Foundation to help meet the growing health care needs of our communities. To learn more go to <http://www.dignityhealth.org/frenchhospital/>