

Medical Economic Recognizes Sunnyside Hospital

Medical Economics Magazine has honored the Breast Imaging Center at Sunnyside Community Hospital as one of the Best of 2011.

The medical magazine cited the conversion to a digital based mammography system as the reason for the recognition. Three other radiology departments in Washington State (in Everett, Republic and Seattle) were also honored.

The system, installed in 2010 allows for mammography examinations to be done without traditional x-ray films.

“For patients it means faster service, with lower exposure to medical radiation,” said Department Manager Coleen Goulet.

“Digital mammography has increased our staff productivity due to the faster digital image process rather than film running through wet chemicals to develop,” Goulet continued. “The better productivity has allowed for more patients to be screened in a given day. Thus, if a patient calls for an appointment she can often be seen that day or the next.”

Many mammography facilities have up to a two-week waiting period Goulet explained.

The digital mammography system at the Sunnyside Breast Imaging Center also features a computerized program called Second Look. Second Look is an automatic program that reviews every mammography examination to make sure the radiologists who review the mammography results miss nothing.

“Our system was the first in the Valley and the only one in Yakima County,” Goulet said. “Our patients have been very happy with the new services. Our overall test numbers are up 10% from the previous year, while many facilities are seeing fewer mammography patients.”