

Avera Queen of Peace Hospital

Combines Care, Compassion with Innovation and Technology

A CASSLING AND SIEMENS CASE STUDY

Avera Queen of Peace Hospital
Mitchell, S.D.
120 beds

Equipment
Siemens MAGNETOM Avanto MRI



Avera Queen of Peace Hospital in Mitchell, S.D., is equipped with the region's most advanced medical technology.

Located in Mitchell, S.D., in the southeastern area of the state in the beautiful rural setting of Davison County, is Avera Queen of Peace Hospital.

Avera Queen of Peace Hospital has a long history in Mitchell, a thriving community of approximately 15,000. When the Presentation Sisters opened St. Joseph Hospital in 1906, at the request of Mitchell civic leaders, they brought with them a healing spirit and a commitment to minister to those in need.

In 1991, St. Joseph Hospital and Methodist Hospital merged to become Queen of Peace Hospital. In 1998, when Avera Health was formed, Avera Queen of Peace Hospital became part of the Avera Health network dedicated to providing quality health care close to home.

A Tradition of Service

Today, Avera Queen of Peace Health Services consists of several medical facilities dedicated to providing comprehensive health care in Mitchell and an eleven-county area. Avera Queen of Peace Hospital, the flagship of the Mitchell region, continues the tradition of its founders and is equipped with the region's most advanced medical technology. One of five Avera hospitals, Avera Queen of Peace Hospital is a 120-bed, JCAHO-certified, regional medical center.

Avera Queen of Peace Hospital combines compassion and care with innovation and technology through a comprehensive array of health-care services. Together with the efforts of more than 45

physicians on staff who offer 17 specialties, Avera Queen of Peace Hospital has the resources to meet virtually every health-care need. Services include cancer care, emergency and trauma care, heart health, rehabilitation and therapies, and women's services.

Commitment to Care Through Innovation, Technology

The hospital's commitment to proactively meet the health-care needs of the community through innovation and technology led to the purchase of a Siemens MAGNETOM Avanto MRI from Cassling.

According to Mike Kowall, director of diagnostic imaging, the Avanto MRI was ordered in July 2007 and installed in October of the same year. The Avanto MRI replaced a Siemens 1.0 Harmony Tesla MRI — also purchased from Cassling — that the hospital used for eight years. The new MRI is a fixed unit housed in the radiology department where the previous MRI was located.

Kowall said the hospital wanted to update to a new MRI for better software and hardware and had requests from some of the hospital orthopaedic surgeons to look at new equipment to replace the 1.0 Harmony Tesla MRI. "We were replacing an eight-year-old piece of equipment that had served its purpose. It was time for a new unit," said Eric Miller, MRI technologist.

Before purchasing the Avanto MRI from Cassling, Kowall said he and other hospital representatives made site visits to three facilities to look at three different units.

"We're a small city in rural South Dakota with a reputation for offering an excellent and powerful MRI that has really great image quality. That's a plus for patients and referring physicians as well."

Eric Miller
MRI technologist

Kowall commented that it was a long process that started in late 2006. “After the site visits we sat down and discussed all of the pieces of equipment through pricing, imaging and physician preference. We made a decision and the Avanto MRI was our choice.”

Fast and Compact with Superior Imaging

The Avanto MRI is a lighter than industry average unit with a magnet length of 150 centimeters. The ultra fast and highly compact MRI was designed to give patients a more comfortable experience with ultra lightweight coils and a wide inner bore diameter of 60 centimeters. For claustrophobic patients, the Avanto enables feet first exams for nearly all MRI procedures.



Stephanie London RT(R)CT, prepares the MAGNETOM Avanto MRI. The fast and compact unit helps patients feel more at ease during exams.

As one of the advantages of upgrading to the Avanto MRI, Miller said going from a 1.0 to a 1.5 magnet brings better detail to the part of the body the unit is imaging. He added, “Faster software means that the test can be done quicker. Reducing the procedure time by even two or three minutes can mean a lot when you are a patient in pain lying on the table.”

The hospital performs approximately 180 exams per month, a slight increase in the number of exams performed with the previous equipment, according to Kowall.

The unit has met with enthusiastic support from the radiologists and medical staff. Because of the superior imaging, the radiologists and physicians are asking for more exams. “With the 1.5 you catch subtle differences so much better and the speed

gives a better overview of what we’re looking at. This allows us to provide better patient care. We can do more imaging in the same amount of time,” Miller said.

Reliable, Exceptional Support

Besides the superiority of the equipment, Kowall explained that the hospital also chose the Avanto because of the outstanding service they have received from Cassling. “Service is a major factor in selecting a piece of equipment, especially when you’re in rural South Dakota. We were never disappointed with the service we received from Cassling. The individuals who service the unit are wonderful and it confirms that we made the right decision. They continue to do a good job,” he said.

Service Close to Home

Service close to home means everything to patients, Miller said. “We have some patients who travel 60 miles to get here and if Avera Queen of Peace was not committed to providing this level of technology and quality, the patient would have to travel even farther and that makes for a long day.”

Miller added, “We’re a small city in rural South Dakota with a reputation for offering an excellent and powerful MRI that has really great image quality. That’s a plus for patients and referring physicians as well.”