



WETZEL COUNTY HOSPITAL

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: **GEORGE COUCH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
Date: **FEBRUARY 18, 2008**
Phone: **304-455-8111**

WETZEL COUNTY HOSPITAL PACS IN OPERATION

New Martinsville, WV – Wetzel County Hospital has installed and is now operating Agfa HealthCare's Picture Archive Communication System (PACS), IMPAX™ 6.0, to help address the needs of the hospital's expanding radiology department. The move, which was finalized in mid-February, will help tie together various imaging systems within the facility, giving the hospital the most efficient way to handle the community's radiology needs.

PACS enables electronic viewing, transmitting and storage of diagnostic images such as Computer Tomography (CT) scans, ultrasounds, X-rays, and magnetic resonance images (MRIs) via computer. Physicians locally and around the world can share radiology images via password protected secured access over the Internet and patients will receive their images on a compact disk (CD) instead of actual films if they need to take them to another hospital or physician.

"The addition of the Agfa HealthCare's PACS solution makes our facility one of the most advanced in the region," added Pam Deel, Director of Radiology. "With this installation, Wetzel County Hospital demonstrates its dedication to bringing high-quality solutions to its patients and medical professionals."

"Implementing Agfa's PACS solution is a step in moving Wetzel County Hospital from the world of analog imaging and film to digital," said George G. Couch, Chief Executive Officer. "We and our patients can expect many benefits from PACS including increased

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productivity, improved communication between departments, reduced film material costs, fewer repeated studies as well as efficient storage and retrieval of images.”

The system was paid for in part by a USDA Rural Development Distance Learning and Telemedicine grant totaling \$269,715 matched by \$280,000 from Wetzel County Hospital. "This program connects communities to medical services and educational opportunities they would not otherwise have," said Agriculture Under-Secretary for Rural Development Thomas Dorr. "Our focus is to ensure that all rural Americans have access to state of the art services through our rapidly expanding telecommunications system."

Agfa HealthCare is a leading provider of digital radiology tools for hospitals and medical centers. Agfa offers proven solutions across the healthcare spectrum that includes digital imaging options in addition to a complete range of information systems. The latest version of Agfa's PACS, IMPAX 6.0, is a web-deployable image management solution that helps streamline enterprise workflow and deliver increased efficiencies various types of healthcare institutions.

Agfa HealthCare supplies hospitals and other healthcare centers with state-of-the-art systems for the capturing, processing and managing of diagnostic images and with IT solutions that integrate information and imaging workflows into the overall hospital operations across departmental disciplines. In addition, Agfa is a leader in the fast growing market of IT systems that span the entire healthcare enterprise and through which healthcare facilities become more efficient and effective, with improved patient outcomes. For more information on Agfa, visit www.agfa.com.

Wetzel County Hospital is a licensed and accredited, 68-bed facility, offering comprehensive acute care inpatient, outpatient services, emergency department and transitional care unit. The hospital is located 35 miles south of Wheeling and 60 miles north of Parkersburg, West Virginia.

For more information, please contact Pam Deel, Director of Radiology of Wetzel County Hospital at 304-455-8091 or pdeel@wetzhealth.org.

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