



Hospital new Breast Clinic offers digital technology and comfort

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Evans Army Community Hospital recently opened a new Breast Care Clinic for all TRICARE beneficiaries replacing what was described as gray and drab with a clinic that is now warm and inviting.

After a thorough rebuild, the grand opening of the new clinic was held March 29. The reconstruction took a year and a half and required lots of patience.

"Nothing good ever comes easy; it has been a thrill and well worth the wait," said Ultra Sound Technician Arvina Deaton-McCoy.

The clinic located in the hospital's Radiology Department, is outfitted with new digital mammography capabilities. It also employs two Radiologists to independently review every mammography screening, which is not a standard practice in most clinics. This further aids in the early detection process. The new technology can reportedly make the appointments three times faster than before, and the advanced computer-assisted program offers a "third set of eyes."



Nurse Tamara McCullough (left) explains the new GE Digital Essential Mammography unit to Colette Montoya. The EACH Breast Imaging Clinic became fully operational at the end of March.

"Besides the new technology, the enhanced esthetics and amenities offer a pleasant, peaceful and nurturing environment to aid in easing what can be a tense wait," said Nurse Kimberly A. Pfennigs, Radiology Breast Clinic Coordinator at EACH.

The waiting area is furnished with soft lighting, a wall mounted flat screen TV and coffee maker to complete a "warm and inviting" environment.

"It's nice to see this Army investment in women and dependents' health care," said Pfennigs. Mammography is a specific type of imaging that uses low doses of radiation to examine breasts.

According to the ACS website, the goal of early screening exams

for breast cancer detection is to locate cancers before they start to cause symptoms. "*Screening* refers to tests and exams used to find a disease, such as cancer, in people who do not have any symptoms. *Early detection* means using an approach that allows earlier diagnosis of breast cancer than otherwise might have occurred."

The American Cancer Society recommends yearly screenings beginning at age 40.

EACH offers breast care screenings on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Patients over the age of 40 may self-refer. Appointments should be made through the Radiology department. For further information visit <http://www.evans.amedd.army.mil/Rad2/mammo.htm> or call the Radiology department at 719-526-7300.