

Frimley, UK
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Siemens Healthcare MR installation delivers diagnostic confidence at Spire Little Aston

Spire Little Aston, of the Spire Healthcare Group, in Sutton Coldfield has installed a MAGNETOM® Aera 1.5T MR system from Siemens Healthcare. The hospital is now using the system, which replaces a previous generation Siemens MAGNETOM Symphony, for a wide range of MR imaging including neurological, orthopaedic, routine abdominal and cardiac services. The Aera features a 70cm Open Bore with a short system design for high patient comfort and ease of access and has helped patients with claustrophobia at the hospital. The technology improvements delivered with the system have led to increased productivity and throughput, with its excellent image quality delivering diagnostic confidence among staff.

The MAGNETOM Aera's advanced post-processing capabilities automate many clinical steps, assisting workflow while maintaining image quality. The system features Tim™ 4G (Total imaging matrix) and Dot™ (Day optimising throughput) technology integration for high resolution imaging, enhanced productivity and efficiency. DirectRF™ provides excellent RF signal purity and stability to deliver the best possible image quality. The system also features 48 RF channels as standard and lightweight coils to give radiographers the flexibility to personalise examinations for patients based on their condition and clinical indication.

“We are very pleased with the performance of the MAGNETOM Aera, which has had an immediate impact in terms of throughput and patient acceptability since its arrival. In addition to its superb quality, the images from the system are quick and reproducible, giving diagnostic confidence to the radiologists and cardiologists that use it,” states Debbie Williams, Diagnostic Imaging Manager at Spire Little Aston. “The response from repeat patients has been universally very good, with everybody describing it as a much nicer experience thanks to the system's wide, yet short,

bore. This has reduced claustrophobic reactions from patients, making them comfortable, whilst increasing productivity.”

“It is clear the performance of the MAGNETOM Aera has delivered instant benefits for the staff and patients at Spire Little Aston Hospital,” states Vince Gollodge, Regional Sales & Corporate Business Manager at Siemens Healthcare. “In addition to effective patient comfort and throughput enhanced by its use of Tim 4G and Dot technologies, the system offers superb image quality across the broad spectrum of applications. We are pleased the anticipated benefits of the system have been immediately met.”

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The **Siemens Healthcare Sector** is one of the world's largest suppliers to the healthcare industry and a trendsetter in medical imaging, laboratory diagnostics, medical information technology and hearing aids. Siemens offers its customers products and solutions for the entire range of patient care from a single source – from prevention and early detection to diagnosis, and on to treatment and aftercare. By optimising clinical workflows for the most common diseases, Siemens also makes healthcare faster, better and more cost-effective. Siemens Healthcare employs some 51,000 employees worldwide and operates around the world. For further information please visit: <http://www.siemens.co.uk/healthcare>.

About Spire Healthcare

Spire Healthcare is the second largest private hospital provider in the UK, with 38 hospitals and ten clinics nationwide. The company is built on a heritage of almost 30 years' experience running successful private hospitals and offers a full range of integrated surgical, medical and diagnostic services.

The company was formed from the sale of BUPA Hospitals to private equity company Cinven in 2007, followed by the purchase of Classic Hospitals and Thames Valley Hospital in 2008. Spire has since built Spire Shawfair Park Hospital (Edinburgh), Montefiore Hospital, acquired London Fertility Centre, and Lifescan. Since Spire was formed, performance improvements have included:

- Multiple Independent Healthcare Awards: 'Medical Practice' (2012) 'Innovation' (2011), 'Risk Management' and 'Nursing Practice' (2010 and 2009), 'Healthcare Outcomes' (2008) 'Infection Control Excellence' (2007)
- Increase in percentage of patients rating Spire 'excellent' or 'very good' - from 87% in 2008 to 92% in 2012*
- Increase in percentage of consultant surgeons rating Spire 'excellent' or 'very good' - from 51% in 2008 to 78% in 2012*
- Increase in percentage of employees who think Spire is a 'great place to work' - from 62% in 2009 to 78% in 2012
- EBITDAR uplifts from £127.4m in 2008 to £188.2m in 2011

For further information please visit: www.spirehealthcare.com.

* Rating options include 'excellent', 'very good', 'quite good', 'quite poor', 'very poor' and 'totally unacceptable'

Picture caption:

Spire Little Aston, of the Spire Healthcare Group, in Sutton Coldfield has installed a MAGNETOM® Aera 1.5T MR system from Siemens Healthcare. The hospital is using the system for a wide range of MR imaging including neurological, orthopaedic, routine abdominal and cardiac services. (Left to right) Vince Gollidge, Regional Sales & Corporate Business Manager at Siemens Healthcare and Debbie Williams, Diagnostic Imaging Manager at Spire Little Aston Hospital.

