



**St. Elizabeth's Hospital
Marketing Department**

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*From: Kelly Barbeau
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RE: Digital Mammography system available at
St. Elizabeth's Hospital Monroe County Medical Building.
Columbia, Illinois

Beginning September 18, St. Elizabeth's Monroe County Medical Building, at the intersection of Route 3 and EE Road in Columbia, will offer women the most advanced digital mammography system available for the early detection of breast cancer. The Selenia™ digital mammography system, by Hologic®, will begin operation in conjunction with the opening of St. Elizabeth's Hospital's new facility in Monroe County.

"Our patients will truly benefit from this cutting-edge technology," said Joe Gain, Radiology Service Manager at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. "An exam can be completed in seconds and the images will instantaneously be ready for review by the technologist and radiologist. This is truly an exciting time."

Digital mammography provides patients with the highest quality of care in the prevention and early detection of breast cancer. This machine is the first of its kind in Monroe and St. Clair Counties. The digital mammogram procedure feels identical to conventional screening but patients will notice shorter exam times and a reduction in call-backs to obtain additional images because the images can be viewed in seconds, allowing the mammographer to confirm proper positioning. Each patient visiting the St. Elizabeth's Monroe County Medical Building will receive personalized care designed to meet her individual needs. The highly-trained staff and state-of-the-art equipment

provide a professional and positive experience to women during this very important part of their overall healthcare program.

The digital system offers improved visibility of the breast, particularly near the skin line, the chest wall and in women with dense breast tissue. Women can get their yearly screening merely by making an appointment at our new facility. In conjunction with St. Elizabeth's Hospital's Picture Archival Communications System (PACS), the digital films are automatically sent to a radiologist to read. In addition, Computer-Aided Detection (CAD) is also offered, providing a "second read" of the mammogram by a computer. Early detection is the key to overcoming breast cancer. The American Cancer Society recommends that all women have a baseline screening mammogram between the age of 35 and 40 and that beginning at the age of 40, women have an annual mammogram. To schedule an appointment call St. Elizabeth's Hospital Monroe County Medical Building at 618.281.9005.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital is a 506-bed acute care medical facility featuring a newly renovated 16-suite surgery center including open-heart suites and an outpatient surgery center featuring 26 private rooms. The hospital was founded by the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis. Today, we continue the mission of our founding sisters: to provide care for the sick and needy with a spirit of respect, care, competence and joy. We maintain a Gold Seal of approval from the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Facilities (JCAHO). For more information please contact Kelly Barbeau at 618.234.2120, extension 1270.

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