



**AGFA**  
**RADIOLOGY**  
SOLUTIONS

## Care in the heart of the community

at Barnsley Community Diagnostic Centre

In the new diagnostic centre located at The Glass Works shopping centre, in Barnsley, the top-performance DR 600 is supporting patient convenience, care and satisfaction, with a smooth, easy workflow that delights radiography staff



**Case study** – Barnsley Community Diagnostic Centre,  
The Glass Works (Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust)

**AGFA** 

## Case study

Interview with  
**Alison Lamb, Deputy Service Manager/ Deputy  
Professional Lead Radiographer**  
**Rebecca Charnock, Modality Lead Plain Film**  
**Rachel Spooner, Clinical Team Lead**

“Demand for radiography has been growing exponentially in the UK for many years. Tackling the resulting waiting lists requires new and more innovative ways of delivering the services people need. One approach has been to enable ‘healthy’ patients to do elective tests and checks away from the hospital, in a more convenient, dedicated space. That’s what the Community Diagnostic Centre located in The Glass Works shopping centre in Barnsley does. The inpatient and emergency imaging for Barnsley Hospital is now completely separated from our outpatient imaging – and it has been having an enormous impact,” starts Alison Lamb, Deputy Service Manager/ Deputy Professional Lead Radiographer, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, in Barnsley, UK.



From left to right: Rebecca Charnock, Umair Nawaz and Alison Lamb

### **‘One-stop’ for outpatient imaging**

The Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) in The Glass Works is one of the first diagnostic centres being launched across the UK in a host of accessible settings. It offers patients a convenient, accessible, ‘one-stop-shop’ for checks, scans and tests.

“We have moved all of our outpatient imaging to the CDC in The Glass Works, including breast screening, ultrasound, X-ray and bone density scans (DEXA). Our radiography staff rotate between the CDC and the main, 400-bed Barnsley Hospital. This has proved to be very convenient for both staff and patients. For patients, for example, there is plenty of parking and public transportation, and they can combine a scheduled visit to the CDC with shopping and other activities,” she continues.



**“We customised the user interface, so that the front page includes the icons and buttons we use most. But we could also configure autopositions, exposure factors and more to our own preferences, thanks to the training from Agfa.”**

**Rebecca Charnock**  
Modality Lead Plain Film

### **Ease of use and functionality make the DR 600 the ‘best option’**

The CDC is located in a brand-new building, rented by the Trust. For this bright, new space, the Trust chose to install Agfa’s ceiling-suspended DR 600 X-ray room. “We visited another hospital with a DR 600 and were very impressed. The fully automatic DR 600 means less moving and handling by the radiographers, and the full leg/full spine (FLFS) bucky extends all the way to the floor. We also liked that the system pauses and prompts you to confirm the patient data: an important safety feature. All in all, the Trust felt the DR 600 was the best option for the new CDC,” continues Alison Lamb.

Installed in the CDC in June 2022, the DR 600 has more than fulfilled expectations. “Installation went very smoothly, and Agfa worked collaboratively with us to address some issues about the site; for example, they helped us get some window glazing removed. They also gave us very good, in-depth training, and were very responsive to answering our questions,” Alison Lamb adds.

Rachel Spooner, Clinical Team Lead, agrees: “The system is very user-friendly and easy for new users to learn; it even gives ‘helpful hints’ for users. Dedicated buttons for specific functions use clear, simple language instead of symbols, for example.”



### Customisable settings and parameters

Further enhancing the ease of use is the ability to tailor and configure settings, without the need for specialist support. Rebecca Charnock, Modality Lead Plain Film, explains: “The DR 600 came with ‘standardised’ settings, based on another Trust. We customised the user interface, so that the front page includes the icons and buttons we use most. Thanks to the training from Agfa we can also configure autopositions, exposure factors and more to our own preferences. For example, if our radiologists prefer images that are a little ‘harder’ than the standard settings, we can tweak that for them.”

The feedback from the radiologists has been positive, adds Alison Lamb. “They are very pleased with the image quality, and appreciate that we can make changes to exposure and dose settings to meet their preferences.”



### Thoughtful design enhances workflow and safety

The radiographers are also pleased. “The workflow at the CDC is very different from the hospital: at the CDC, we have our list of scheduled patients, and can concentrate fully on that. With features such as autopositioning, the DR 600 supports a seamless workflow, making shifts at the Centre quite smooth. This then allows us to spend more time interacting with the patients,” explains Rachel Spooner.

Rebecca Charnock adds: “When you are moving the tubehead, you have to keep your finger on the button, which I find to be a very good safety feature! It eliminates the risk of knocking the tubehead into drip stands, patients, staff... And the ZeroForce™ technology reduces physical strain on the radiographers: they don’t have to bend and lift as much, or drag the tubehead around the room. They were a little apprehensive when we first got the DR 600, because it was completely new equipment, but they were quickly familiar with it, and now they love it.”





**“We are certain that the DR 600 will do just as well in the hospital environment as at the CDC. At the CDC, for example, we don’t do trolley work, but we are already discussing how useful the autopositioning will be for that in the hospital.”**

**Rachel Spooner**  
Clinical Team Lead



### DID YOU KNOW

- The Barnsley Community Diagnostic Centre has been nominated for the 2022 Sheffield Design Awards “People’s Choice Award”, as a “pioneering model for delivering healthcare in a community setting”.
- Thanks to 40 new community diagnostic centres being opened across England in a range of settings from local shopping centres to football stadiums, millions of patients will benefit from earlier diagnostic tests closer to home.
- These one-stop-shops for checks, scans and tests will be backed by a £350 million investment from the government to provide around 2.8 million scans in the first full year of operation.

## Reliable solution

The reliability of the DR 600 has been a welcome surprise for the team.

“Since we went live, we have had no problems requiring an engineer to come to the site – which is almost unheard of,” comments Rebecca Charnock.

“Reliability and uptime are a big concern for us, as we have only one X-ray room at the CDC. At the hospital, if an X-ray unit goes down, it is an inconvenience as we need to rearrange ourselves around the other rooms. But at the CDC, if the X-ray goes down, we have to physically relocate the patients to the hospital. It’s a major upheaval. So the excellent reliability has been a significantly positive result for us,” Rachel Spooner adds.

“However, we are confident that when we do need support, Agfa will be there for us,” says Alison Lamb.

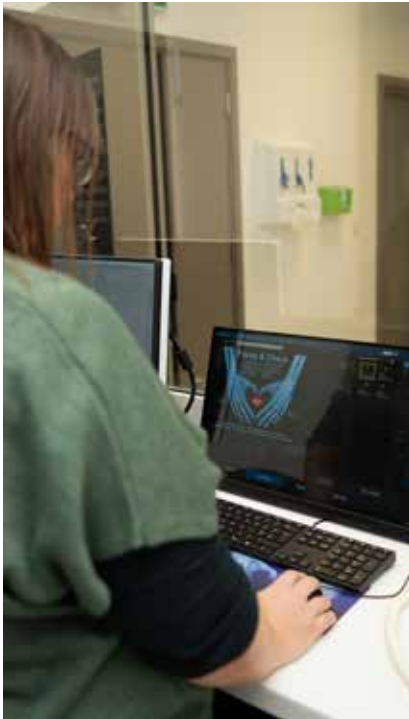


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**Alison Lamb,**

Deputy Service Manager/

Deputy Professional Lead Radiographer



## One is good, two is better...

The Trust is so pleased with the DR 600 at the CDC, that it has also ordered one for the hospital. "We are certain that the DR 600 will do just as well in the hospital environment as at the CDC," says Rachel Spooner.

"Agfa is going to install the new DR 600 with the customised settings we have already set up for the CDC, so we won't have to redo that work. Then, we can set up additional positions for the different types of exams we carry out at the hospital. I expect we will also use more of the functions that we generally don't need at the CDC," Rebecca Charnock says.

"The feedback for the CDC at The Glass Works has been positive all the way around. The patients love the bright and modern new facilities, and they are very pleased with the service we can offer. It takes away the stress of going to the hospital for standard checks and tests. The staff as well are very pleased: the workflow is more pleasant and smoother at both the hospital and the CDC, which means they can focus their efforts on the patient rather than slotting people into busy X-ray rooms. The DR 600 at the CDC has proven to be a key factor in enabling this, and we are confident that the new DR 600 in the hospital will prove just as useful," concludes Alison Lamb.

## Agfa's solution



### DR 600



The DR 600 is a **high-productivity, fully automatic**, ceiling-suspended X-ray room.



Powered by MUSICA®, it **streamlines workflow and increases throughput**, enhancing the experience of patients and operators alike with technologies including **ZeroForce™ manoeuvrability** and **EasyStitch™ full leg/full spine imaging**.



This makes it ideal for a facility in **the heart of the community**, like the Barnsley CDC at The Glass Works.

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