



Dental Unit Conversion at Attica

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Attica Correctional Facility's (Wyoming County) Dental Unit is becoming more eco-friendly. By implementing new digital technology with basic computer image enhancement for better diagnosis is the challenge of our time. Recently, Attica's Dental Unit completed the conversion from conventional film-based radiography to a much more cost-effective digital radiography system.

This change to completely state of the art digital technology is an example of how DOCCS has made an effort to reduce the exposure of radiation to patients while increasing our diagnostic proficiency. An added benefit to our environment is a reduction in the use of harsh chemicals and other waste materials associated with traditional radiographs. By reducing chemical waste, DOCCS is thinking "green" and taking pride in being environmentally responsible.

A digital image viewed on a monitor can be utilized as a learning tool to inmate-patients. Now dentists and patients can view the tooth that is being discussed simultaneously. Unlike traditional x-ray film, digital images can better assist in making a more precise clinical diagnosis and images can be magnified, colorized and sharpened. The new technology allows for specificity that is available for the discussion of the oral condition of the patient which was not possible in the past, utilizing film-based x-rays.

The most dramatic aspect with digital radiographs is in respect to time savings. Not only is the x-ray ready to view in less than one second but also the image can be printed instantaneously. This assists DOCCS to expedite dental care while the patient is in the dental chair.