

Uninterrupted power helps keep cath lab productive and profitable



Saratoga Hospital
Saratoga Springs, New York





Jeff Casale, Manager,
Engineering Services

Saratoga Hospital, part of the Saratoga Care network, is a 243-bed hospital serving the area in and around Saratoga Springs, NY. Founded in 1891, the non-profit facility has continually expanded to keep pace with the changing community. Saratoga Hospital has over 270 physicians on staff and provides care in virtually every medical specialty. It is ranked among the top third of U.S. hospitals.

In addition to emergency and acute inpatient care, the hospital offers a broad range of sophisticated, on-site diagnostic procedures, including cardiac catheterization.

Jeff Casale, manager of engineering services at Saratoga Hospital, is responsible for operational oversight and maintenance of the diagnostic imaging technology. Casale says that the Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) that he purchased from GE Healthcare has served to protect the cardiac cath lab equipment and allowed them to maintain the hospital mission of providing the best patient care.

Saratoga Hospital Mission Statement

To serve the people of our community by responding to their health care needs in a supportive and caring environment.

“In 2006, we had a total of 10 power outages. In each case, we were able to perform our procedures uninterrupted because of UPS protection.”

– Jeff Casale

Protected, consistent power

Providing clean, consistent power to maintain patient care information delivery systems – including diagnostic imaging systems – relies heavily on protecting the power supply to the equipment. Power protection is more than backup power. Utility companies provide the power that hospitals need, but cannot guarantee the quality or continuity required to operate sensitive diagnostic imaging equipment. In many cases, a UPS can help provide that protection.

Jeff Casale states that there were a number of key factors that influenced his decision to purchase a UPS to protect the cardiac cath lab equipment. First and foremost was the concern over power quality. “Our facility experiences its share of power interruptions and poor power quality at times. The power problems caused numerous issues on our cardiac cath lab equipment,” he says.

Impacted procedures

Power quality and consistency are important to protect all diagnostic imaging equipment, but especially critical to cath lab performance as it often involves a medical procedure with direct patient contact.

“Any power problems impacted the cath lab operation, causing a need to reboot the equipment. Most of the time, we had to reboot in the middle of a critical procedure with a patient on the table. Just prior to the installation of the UPS, we logged 17 cases that were affected by power loss. It resulted in patient care being disrupted.”

After consulting with GE Healthcare’s Accessories and Supplies division, Casale purchased a Digital Energy™ SG Series 300kVA UPS to protect the cath lab. The SG was configured and tested by GE to perform with cath lab equipment. The system operates in a double conversion mode with true continuous on-line operation to yield the maximum levels of power reliability for a wider range of mission-critical applications.

Enhanced protection and increased productivity

Since the UPS went online, Casale says that he no longer has to concern himself with power delivery as it relates to the proper operation of the cath lab equipment. “To date, the UPS has protected our equipment during every interruption in power.” Immediately after installation, the UPS proved its value. “The UPS went on line in June 2005. That summer, our region experienced extremely high temperatures and numerous storms, resulting in power outages. We had a total of nine power outages that summer. While we don’t know the actual number, there were also numerous brownouts that summer, caused by high electric use because of the temperatures,” Casale recalls.

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Along with impacting productivity, there is also the financial impact of an interrupted procedure.

“At Saratoga Hospital, each cath lab procedure results in significant revenue. The revenue does not include the time of the cath lab staff or physician.” According to Casale, the patients can be impacted, too. “Any interruption during the procedure could result in a poor patient outcome. The dollar value of a poor outcome could be substantial.”

Support from GE supports their mission

Saratoga Hospital’s mission is short and to the point: To serve the people of our community by responding to their health care needs in a supportive and caring environment. Casale says that GE’s support before, during and after the sale of the UPS helps them achieve their mission.

“Providing the best in patient care is part of our mission here at Saratoga Hospital,” he says. “The GE UPS has helped us achieve this in the cath lab, as maintaining this piece of equipment is critical for us to deliver safe patient care.

The GE staff did such a great job in providing us support during the warranty period that purchasing a service contract became automatic.”

GE Healthcare offers validated UPS solutions for most diagnostic imaging technologies. For more information, contact the Accessories & Supplies division at (877)248-5355.

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