

# A Positive Impact on Image Quality and Patient Satisfaction in Mammography—

## One Hospital's Experience by Switching to Beekley Medical's™ Bella Blankets®

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When Centennial Medical Center of Nashville, TN, decided to enhance its mammography service by utilizing Beekley Medical's Bella Blankets protective coverlets, it hoped for improvements in both image quality and patient satisfaction. Presented below is the hospital's overall successful experience using Bella Blankets.

### Ease of Positioning

One of the positive outcomes resulting from the use of Bella Blankets was that technologists were pleased with the ease of positioning that enabled them to image patients closer to the chest wall.

Radiologists were equally satisfied with the increased amount of breast tissue that the single-use coverlets enabled technologists to capture and the overall improved image quality. Administrators benefited from the swift return on investment resulting from the switch to Bella Blankets protective coverlets. Finally, patients welcomed an overlay on the receptor plate, creating an optimal condition for technologists to capture a maximum amount of tissue on images.



Bella Blankets protective coverlet on receptor plate



Centennial Medical Center, Nashville, TN

Thin, textured, latex-free, and hypo-allergenic, the FDA-listed coverlets help immobilize hard-to-position breasts while preventing sticking and sliding, establishing a sanitary barrier, and removing the chill. The anticipated results are better images and satisfied patients who are more likely to return for annual mammograms.

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**“ I believe the Bella Blankets help to immobilize the breast better, especially on hard-to-position patients.” said imaging technologist Sandy Chessor, “They are great to use on female and male patients. ”**

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While better positioning can translate to more tissue imaged, it also increases the likelihood of capturing images that satisfy, or may exceed, American College of Radiology guidelines—increasing the chance for optimal outcomes. At a breast center, such efficiency is highly desired.

“Patients like the feel of the blankets, but they also allow us to do the best possible job imaging patients and to do it economically,” said Patricia Tepper, M.D., medical director for the Breast Health Center. “No matter how good my eye is, if an irregularity is not included on the mammogram I have no chance of detecting it.”

## Increased Breast Tissue

According to Dr. Tepper, comparative studies have confirmed the success using the blankets, demonstrating an increased distance from nipple to chest wall compared with prior exams. She went on to add that an increase in tissue can reveal a 1 cm lesion that otherwise might have been missed.

## Patient Satisfaction

As with any change, there were concerns that patients might resist the coverlets. However, staff informed women that the switch was designed to maximize the amount of breast tissue visible on their mammograms, ensuring the most thorough possible breast evaluation. They were delighted.

## Cost Savings

As a bonus, Bella Blankets are priced about 40% below other products, resulting in an economic benefit that was felt immediately. Staff had anticipated a \$34,000 annual savings as a result of the change; however, a \$9,000 savings was reported in the first quarter alone. “That has made the chief financial officer and everyone else quite happy,” said Janina Mattus, Medical Imaging Manager.

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“**Bella Blankets help our technologists do their job better,” Dr. Tepper said. “Because they can do their job better, I can do my job better.**”

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## About Centennial Medical Center

Established in 1969, Centennial is a 657-bed comprehensive facility offering a range of acute-care services. While the breast center has long been a leader in breast imaging, staff were facing the usual challenges such as skin folds that can hide tiny malignancies. In 2010 they decided to implement Bella Blankets®, which were known to minimize skin folds and optimize image quality. The results were dramatic, prompting Centennial to expand use of the product to its tomosynthesis unit.

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Centennial's experience with Bella Blankets was unique to the hospital and results may vary depending upon the individual facility reporting and its experience.

To learn more about Centennial Medical Center's experience with Bella Blankets, visit [www.beekley.com](http://www.beekley.com) to watch their video testimonial.

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