

Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics, the leading clinical diagnostics company, is committed to providing clinicians with the vital information they need for the accurate diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of patients. Our comprehensive portfolio of performance-driven systems, unmatched menu offering and IT solutions, in conjunction with highly responsive service, is designed to streamline workflow, enhance operational efficiency and support improved patient care.

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**Innovative automation delivers predictable  
turnaround times and boosts productivity.**

*StreamLAB® Automation Solutions – A Case Study*

**Answers for life.**

**SIEMENS**

# StreamLAB® Automation Solutions create new efficiencies for Palos Community Hospital.



“Prior to *StreamLAB*, we would probably receive five calls every shift from the emergency department, asking about results. Now we don’t get more than one call in a 24-hour period.”

David Noah  
Core Laboratory Manager



## StreamLAB Automation Solution. Automate with confidence

A single platform with multiple benefits:

- A single workstation for all tasks. All activities, including loading and unloading, are done from one central location.
- Flexibility that fits any lab. A 90-degree track-turn configuration allows *StreamLAB* to fit in corners and around columns, minimizing renovation costs.
- Full capabilities, compact size. With one of the industry’s smallest footprints, *StreamLAB* offers the same productivity and full test menu as systems twice its size. *StreamLAB* connects the following instruments:

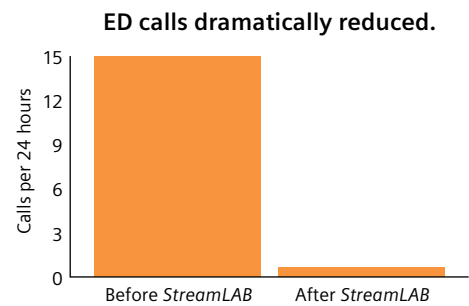
*Dimension® RxL Max®*  
*Dimension Vista® 1500*  
*IMMULITE 2000®/IMMULITE® 2500*  
*Sysmex® CA-7000*  
*ADVIA Centaur®\**

- Intelligent workload management. *StreamLAB* monitors and balances workload, detects problems, and routes samples to the analyzer that provides the fastest turnaround time.

- Hands-off sample management maximizes productivity. *StreamLAB* protects the integrity of samples and minimizes potential biohazardous exposure with pre- and post-analytical capabilities: “receipt in lab,” input sorting, centrifugation decapping, STAT sample management, smart sample routing, add-on and repeat test sample management, resealing, output sorting, and archived sample tracking.

- 24/7 support. Smooth transition and implementation with continuous service and support.

\* Currently available outside the U.S. Under development for sale in the U.S.



Palos Community Hospital is a 436-bed, not-for-profit hospital in Palos Heights, IL. Its extensive network of fully integrated inpatient and outpatient services is supported by a core laboratory that runs about 2.1 million tests annually. With more demands, and fewer med techs to handle them, the lab was concerned about maintaining its productivity levels.

### Consistent turnaround every time.

When the decision was made to automate the lab, Palos chose *StreamLAB*, an innovative automation system that consolidates all tasks to a single workstation, while automating pre- and post-analytical functions. Because the processing of each tube is done the same way every time, turnaround times are always consistent.

“Turnaround time wasn’t the problem; consistency was,” said Noah. “If we can give our ED doctors a predictable turn-

around time, they’re less likely to call. Also, manual tasks were causing pre-analytic errors. Most of the pre-analytical steps are being done by the *StreamLAB* system automatically. So a lot of the errors that happened once we had the specimen have pretty much gone away.”



David Noah  
Core Laboratory Manager

### Predictability boosts productivity.

With the addition of *StreamLAB*, the lab is also able to test around the clock. “Before *StreamLAB*, there were a lot of tests that we batched and did only on certain days,” said Noah. “Now, we’ve pretty much gone away from

batch analysis, since we do all testing as it comes into the laboratory.”

“We were able to move from five platforms down to three. And the transition from separate platforms was remarkably smooth. Siemens did everything they promised.”

### Enabling staff efficiency.

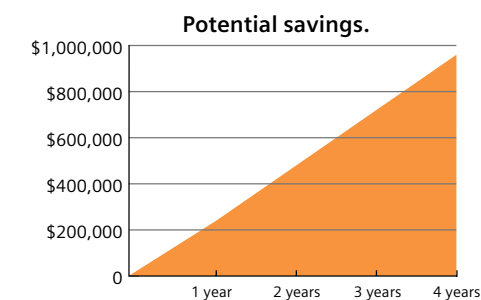
Because *StreamLAB* requires fewer people to operate the system, the laboratory has been able to redeploy staff to other activities where their skills are needed most. “We’ve had the system in since last November and I was just able to redeploy 1.1 FTEs,” said Noah. “And I really think that within the next eight or nine months, I’ll be able to move another FTE into doing some different testing.”

**“StreamLAB has consolidated everything to one central location. So our workflow has really improved.”**

### Lab revenues increase.

The lab has also been able to increase revenues by bringing more testing in-house, including its number-one send-out test. “There are tests available on the Siemens platform that we didn’t have before,” said Noah. “We’re now getting

those revenues. Since we brought those tests in, my overall budget for chemistry and immunoassay has decreased by \$20,000 a month.”



“It’s the best move we’ve made in the last 20 years,” said Noah. The consolidation and consistency that *StreamLAB* offers is appreciated by both physicians and lab personnel.