

NX

Getting Started Sheets



Manufacturer: Agfa HealthCare NV, Septestraat 27, B-2640 Mortsel - Belgium

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1 Getting started with NX

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This chapter explains how to perform the first basic actions on the NX workstation. The following sections are discussed:

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- [Opening a patient from the RIS](#)
- [Manually entering patient data](#)
- [Composing the examination](#)
- [Identifying the cassettes](#)
- [Exposing the cassette](#)
- [Digitizing the images on the DX-G/DX-M](#)
- [Performing quality control](#)
- [About extensive Editing possibilities](#)

Introduction

In this chapter, you will learn how to work with the NX workstation. NX has a main workflow, which provides an easy touch user interface and high patient throughput. Following this workflow, you will learn how to use NX.



Note: Depending on your hospital workflow, steps can be not applicable.

The NX workflow consists of several steps:

- 1** Open a patient from the RIS or enter patient data manually.
When a new patient comes in, define the patient info for the exam.
- 2** Selecting the examinations.
Set the exposure instructions for the exam.
- 3** Identifying the cassettes.
Identify the cassette that carries the exam. You are free to perform X-Ray exposures before or after identification.
- 4** Digitizing the images.
The Digitizer sends the images to NX.
- 5** Performing quality control.
Assess the image quality and prepare the images for diagnosis. Send the images to a hardcopy printer or PACS (Picture Archiving and Communication System).



Note: Next to this main workflow, you have a wide number of image processing tools in the Editing window. For more information, see [“About Editing”](#) on page 145 in the NX User manual.

Opening a patient from the RIS

Procedure:

1 In the Worklist window:

- Select an exam from the list (1) and click Start Exam (2).
- Press the displayed thumbnail.
- Double-click an exam in the list.

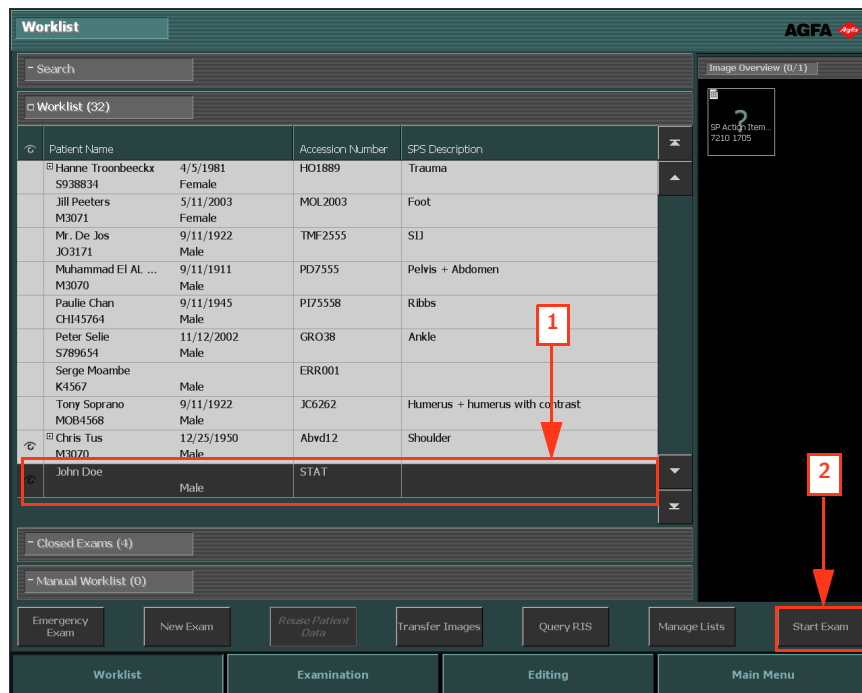


Figure 1: Starting an Examination from the Worklist window



Note: If your system is configured to interpret protocol codes, the images may be preselected. In that case, the images are automatically added when you click Start Exam.

2 The patient (1) and exam (2) details are displayed in the **Examination** window.

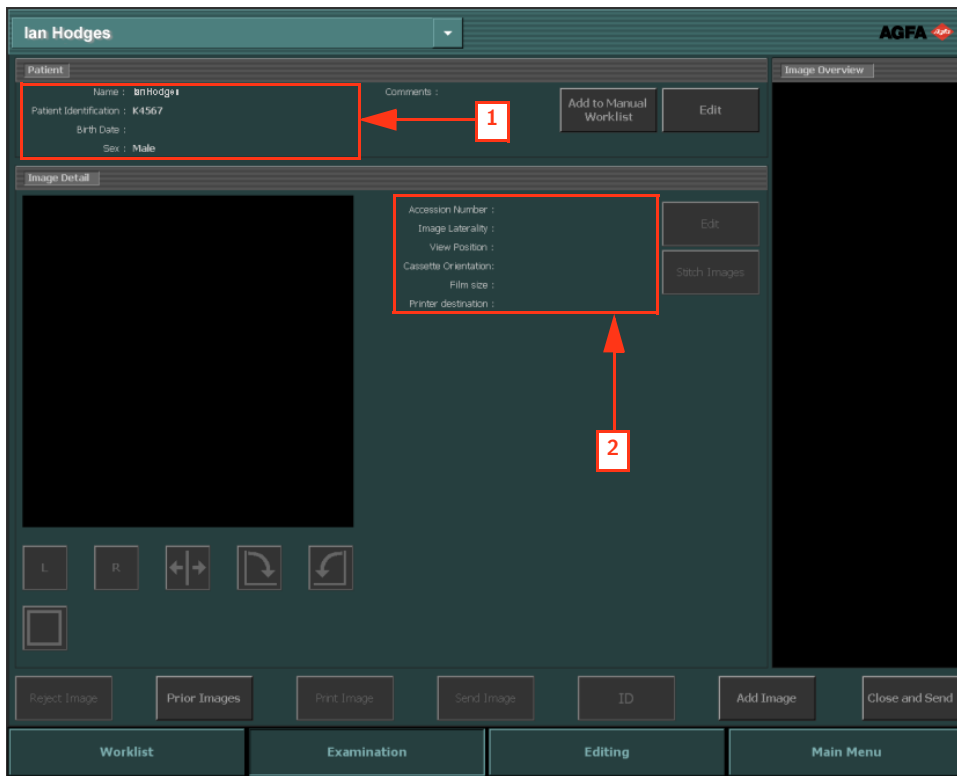


Figure 2: Examination window

Manually entering patient data

Procedure:

- 1 In the **Worklist** window, click **New Exam**.

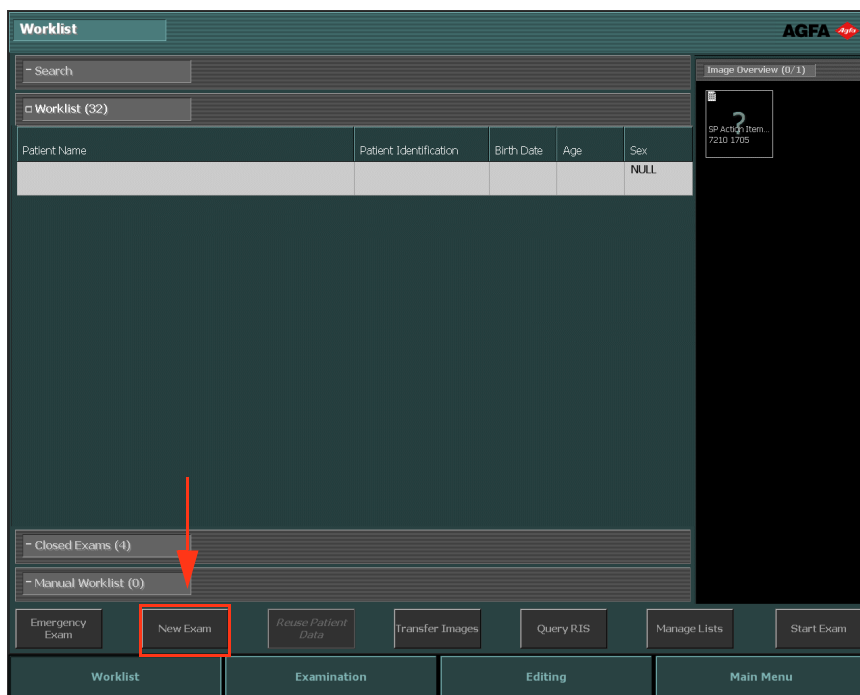


Figure 3: Manually Entering patient data

- 2 The **Examination** window opens, where you have to fill in the patient information. All fields with an asterisk on the right side are mandatory and must be filled in to be able to continue.

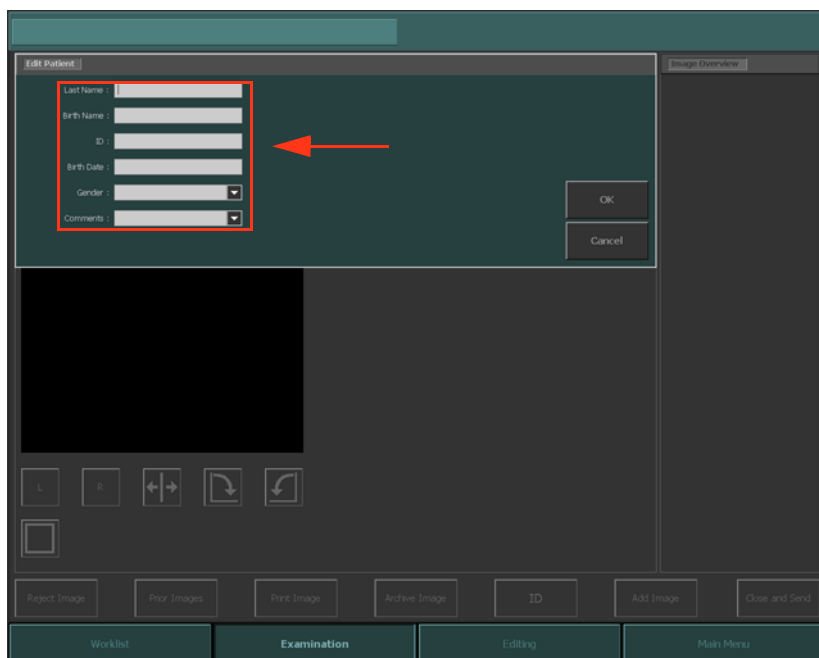


Figure 4: Edit patient pane

3 Click OK.

The **Add Image** window opens, where you can add the necessary images.

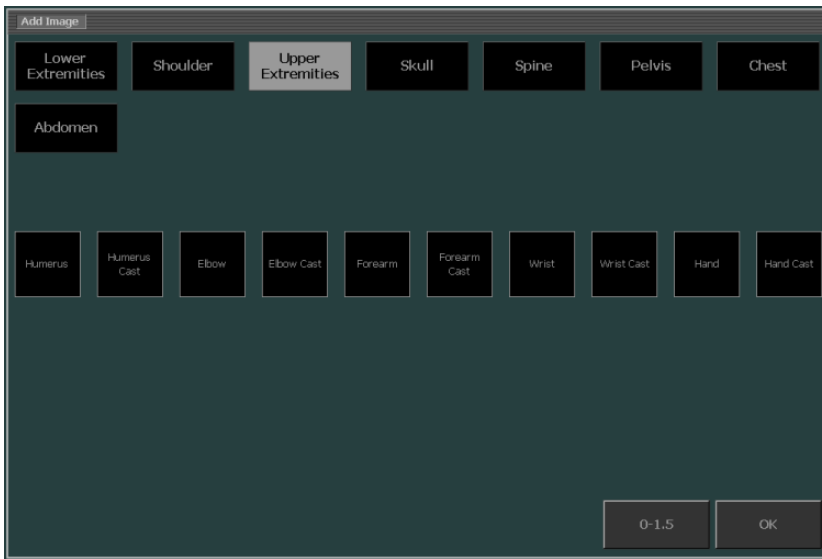


Figure 5: Add Image window

4 Click OK.

Composing the examination

Procedure:

- 1 In the **Examination** window, click **Add Image**.

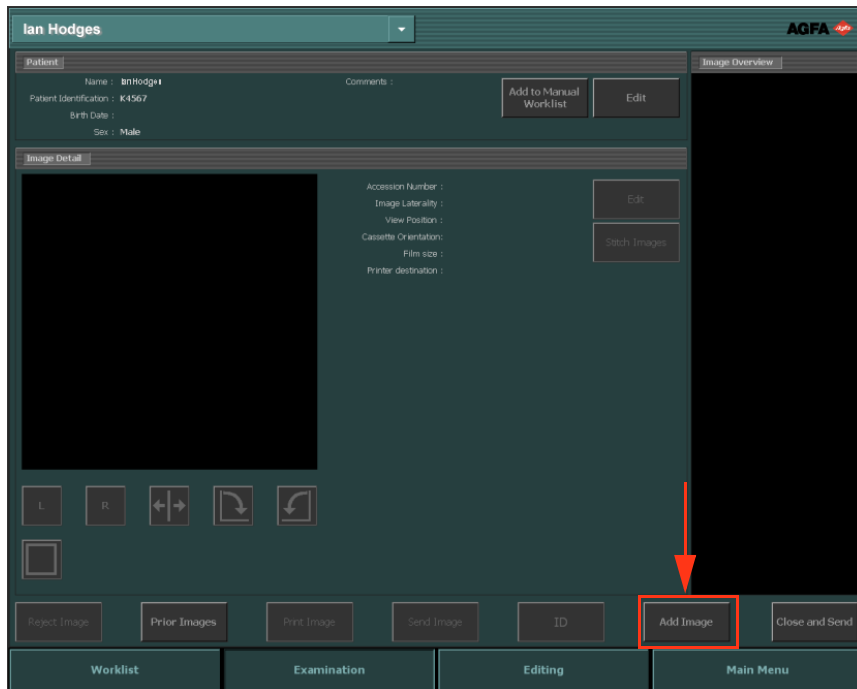


Figure 6: Examination window with Add Image button highlighted



Note: If your system is configured to interpret protocol codes, the images may be preselected. In that case, the images are automatically added when you click Start Exam.

The **Add Image** window appears.



Figure 7: Add Image window



Note: The age group is automatically selected by calculating age, based on the patient's birth date. Only in exceptional cases, you should change the age group.

- Specify the exam type by clicking on the buttons. First select a group, then an image.

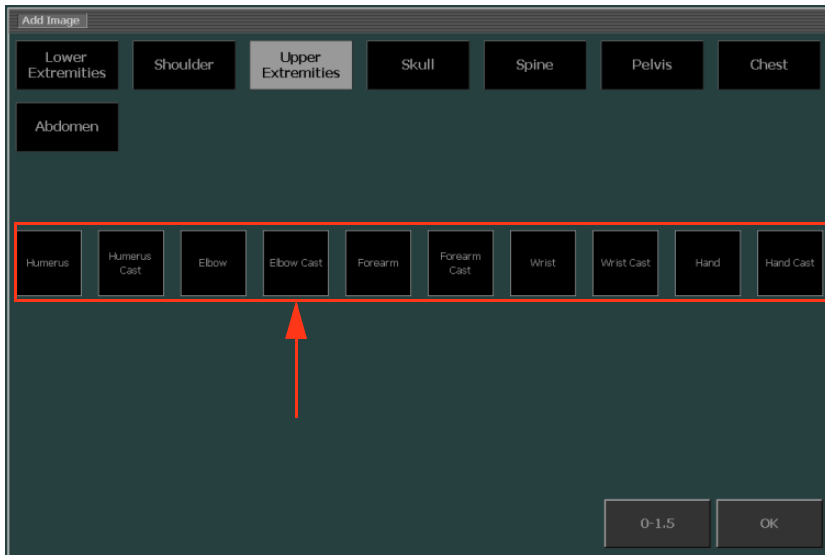


Figure 8: Select Exposure Type in Add Image window

The image thumbnail is added to the image overview.

- Click **OK**.

Identifying the cassettes

Procedure:

- 1 Insert a cassette in the ID Tablet.



Figure 9: Inserting a cassette into the ID Tablet

- 2 In the **Examination** window, select the right thumbnail in the Image overview.

In the example below, there is only one thumbnail which is automatically selected. If there is more than one thumbnail, the selected one is not necessarily the one that will be performed first; you can select another thumbnail.

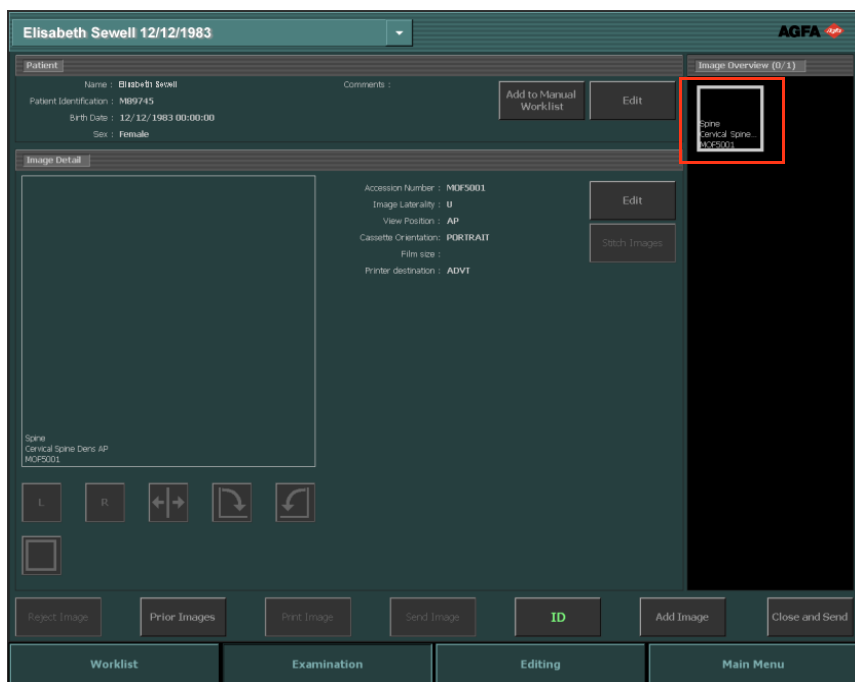


Figure 10: Thumbnail selection in Examination window

3 Click ID or press F2.

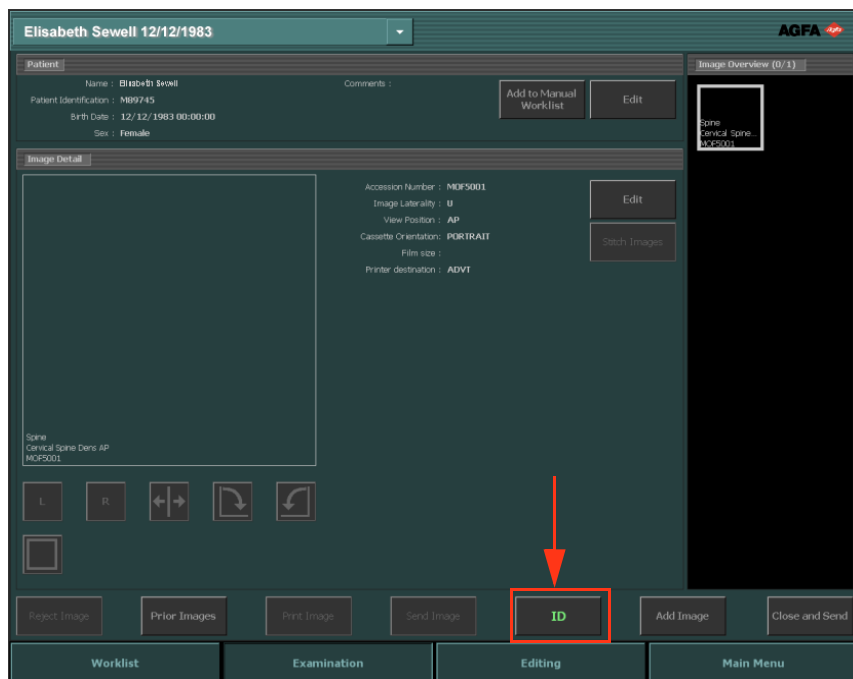


Figure 11: Examination window with ID button highlighted.

If NX is configured in that way, the Forced Operator Identification window appears.

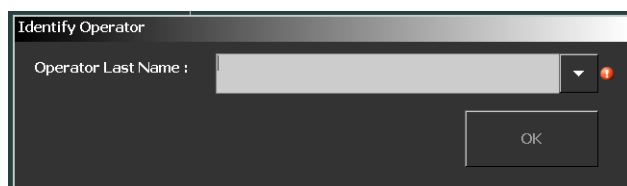


Figure 12: Forced Operator Identification window

4 In the Forced Operator Identification window, select a name from the list or enter your name and click OK.



Note: Operator Identification is only requested when you identify the first thumbnail. If an examination is performed by several operators, you can adapt the "Operator" field in the Edit Image Detail pane (if this is configured). Refer to ["Editing patient data"](#) on page 120 in the NX User manual.

- 5 The thumbnail is labelled with the code 'ID'. The patient data is written to the cassette. Depending on the configuration, the next exposure thumbnail to be identified is now selected.

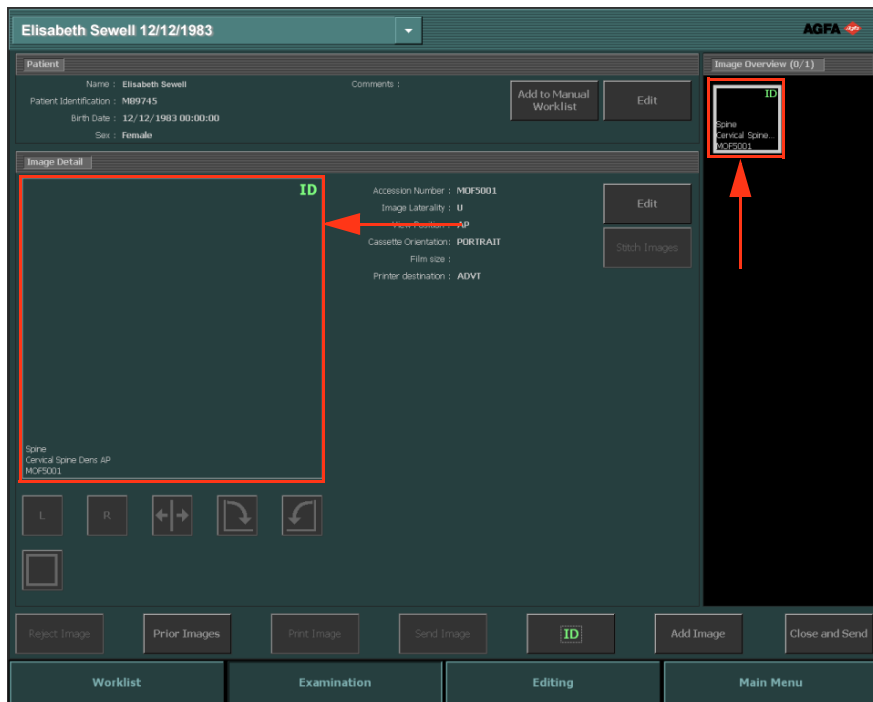


Figure 13: Examination window with identified exposure



Note: The identification of the cassette can be performed before or after the X-Ray exposure.

Note: You can also identify cassettes in the Add image window.

Exposing the cassette

When performing an exposure, keep in mind the following cassette orientation aids:

- black tube side
- cassette orientation marker

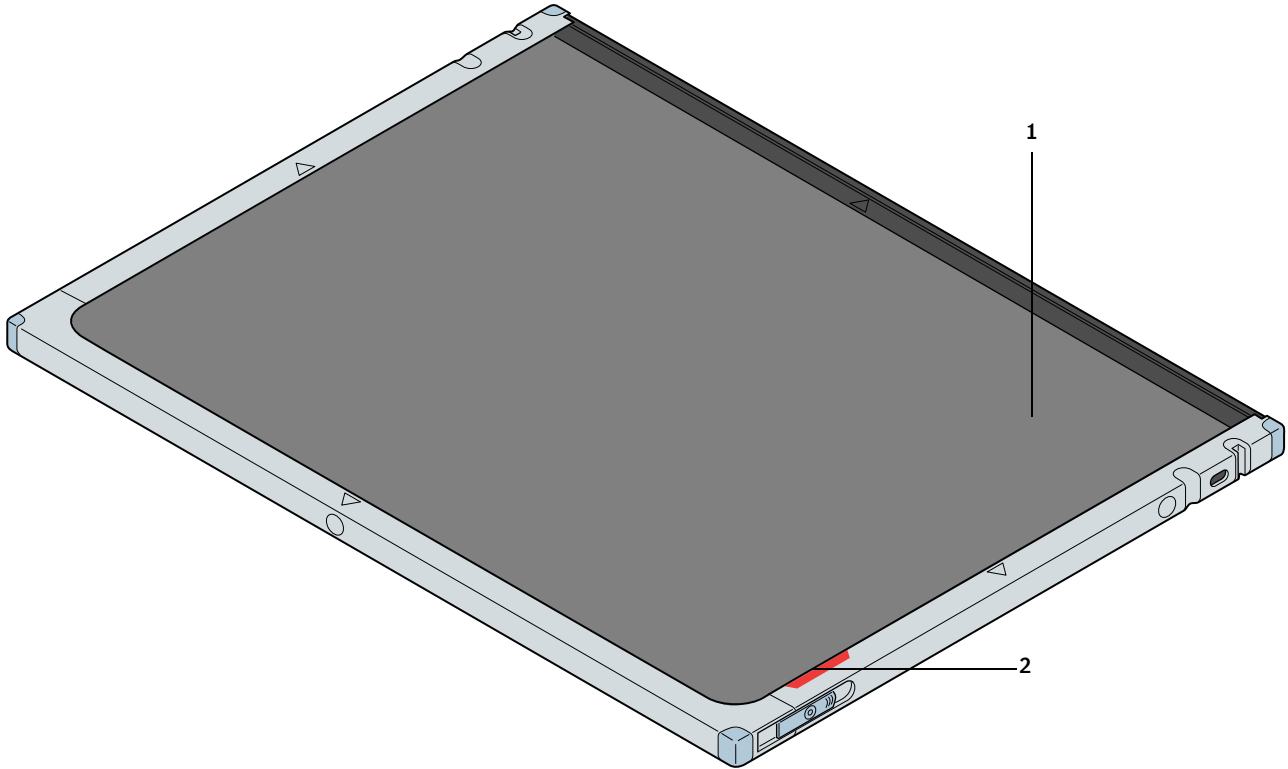


Figure 14: Cassette orientation aids

1. Black tube side of the cassette
2. Red cassette orientation marker

Below some examples to illustrate the importance of the cassette orientation marker.

• Skull AP Portrait

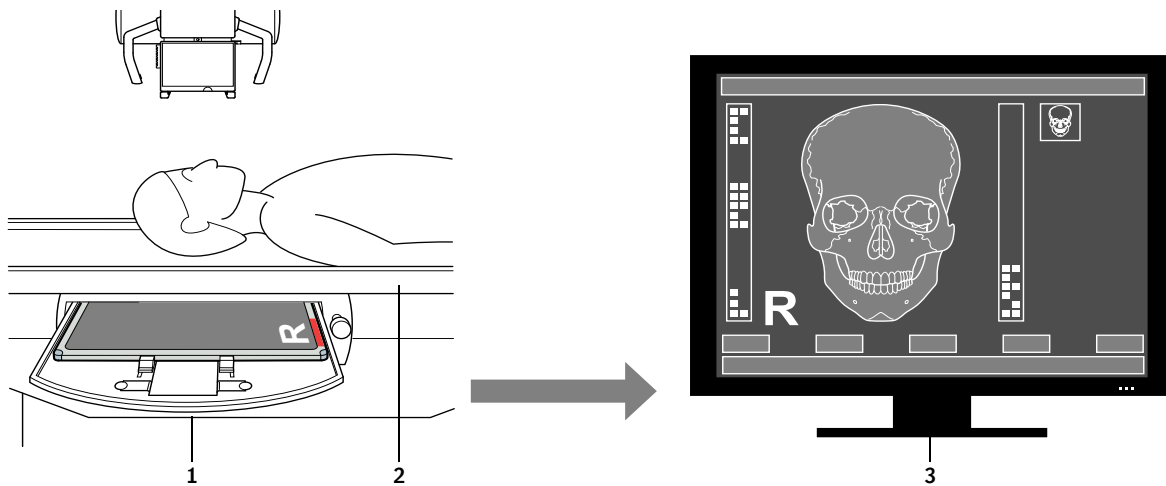


Figure 15: Skull AP portrait

1. Cassette orientation
2. Patient orientation
3. Result on monitor

• Chest PA Landscape

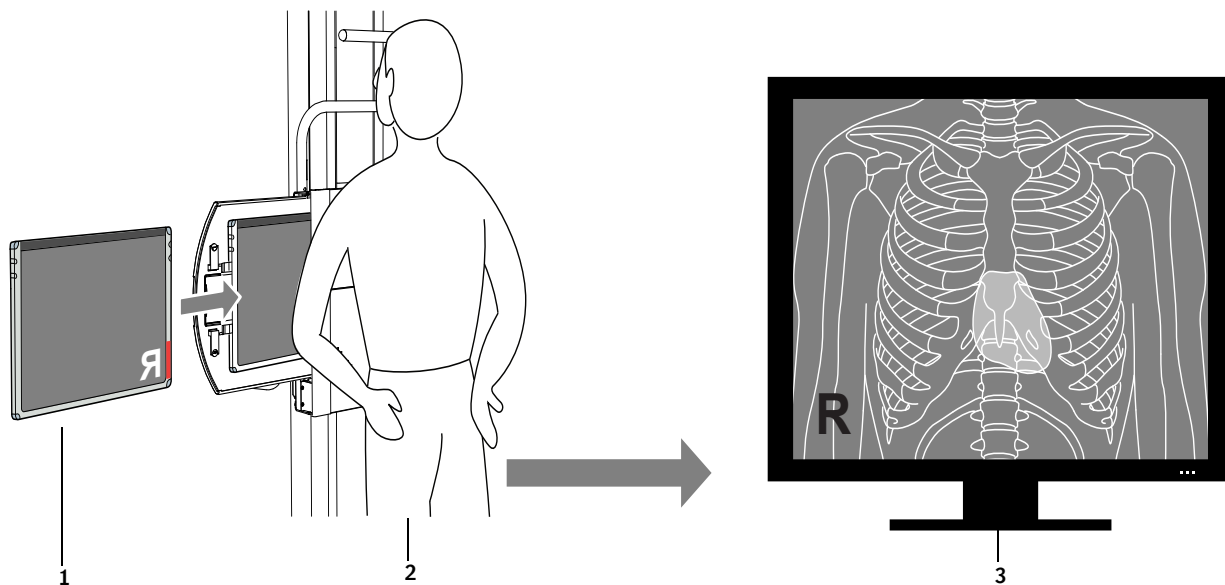


Figure 16: Chest PA landscape

1. Cassette orientation
2. Patient orientation
3. Result on monitor

Exposing a CR Mammography cassette

When performing an exposure, keep in mind the following cassette orientation aids:

- Label indicating tube side of the cassette
- Red cassette orientation marker, pointing towards the chest wall side

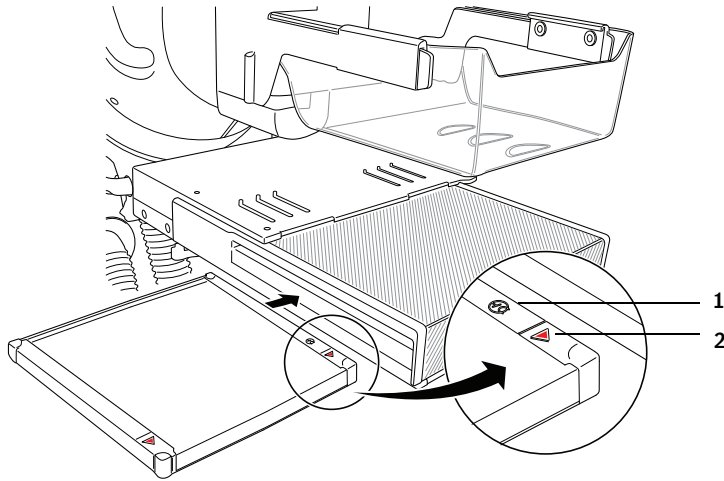


Figure 17: Exposing a CR Mammography cassette

1. Label indicating tube side of the cassette
2. Red cassette orientation marker, pointing towards the chest wall side

Digitizing the images on the DX-G/DX-M

Procedure:

- 1 Insert the cassette in the Digitizer.
 - Put the cassettes with the exposed and identified image plates in the input buffer on the left side of the Digitizer.
 - Make sure that the shutter opening and locking mechanism point down and that the tube side of the cassette faces the operator.

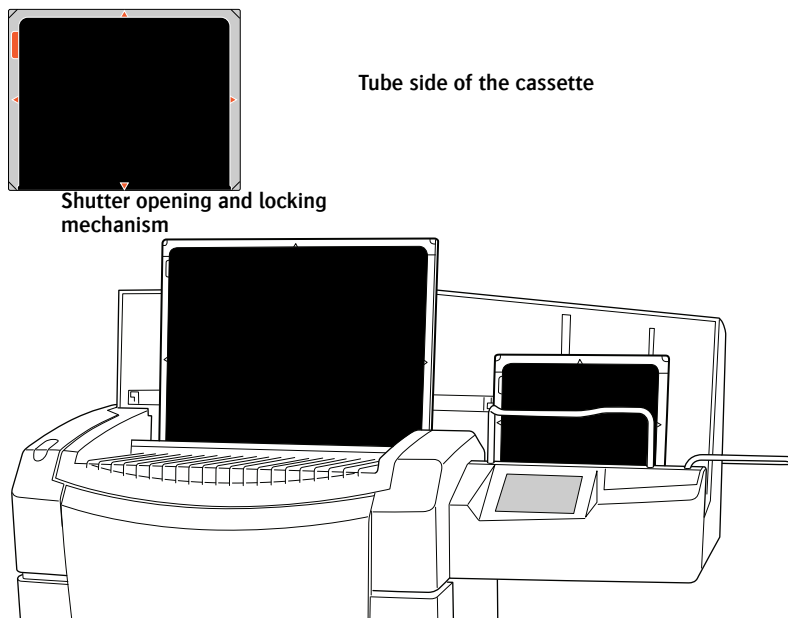


Figure 18: Cassette orientation

While the cassettes are being digitized, the status indicator is green and blinking.

- 2 The image will appear in the **Image Overview** pane of the **Examination** window.

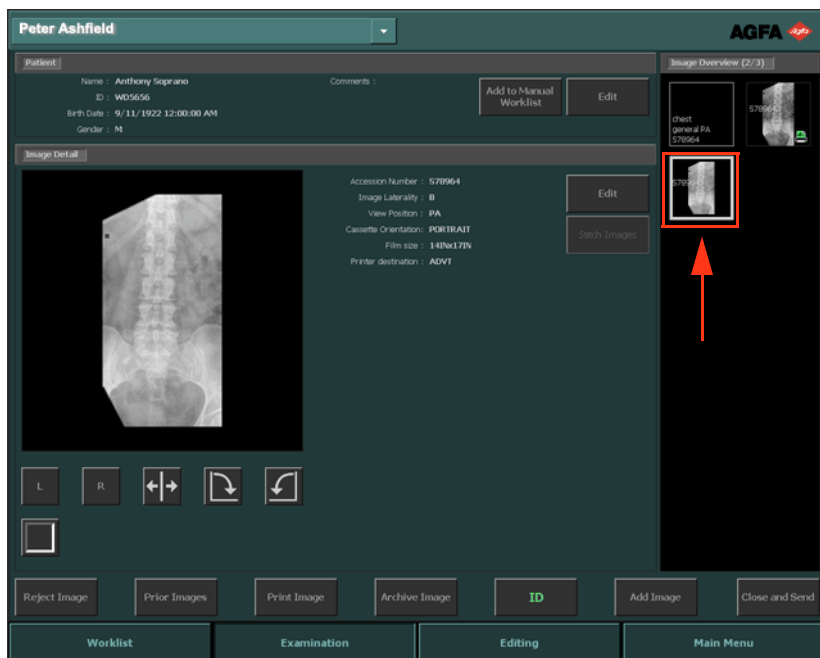


Figure 19: Image appears in Examination window

Performing quality control

Procedure:

- 1 In the **Image Overview** pane of the **Examination** window, select the image on which you want to perform quality control. (1)

The image is displayed in the **Image Detail** pane. (2)

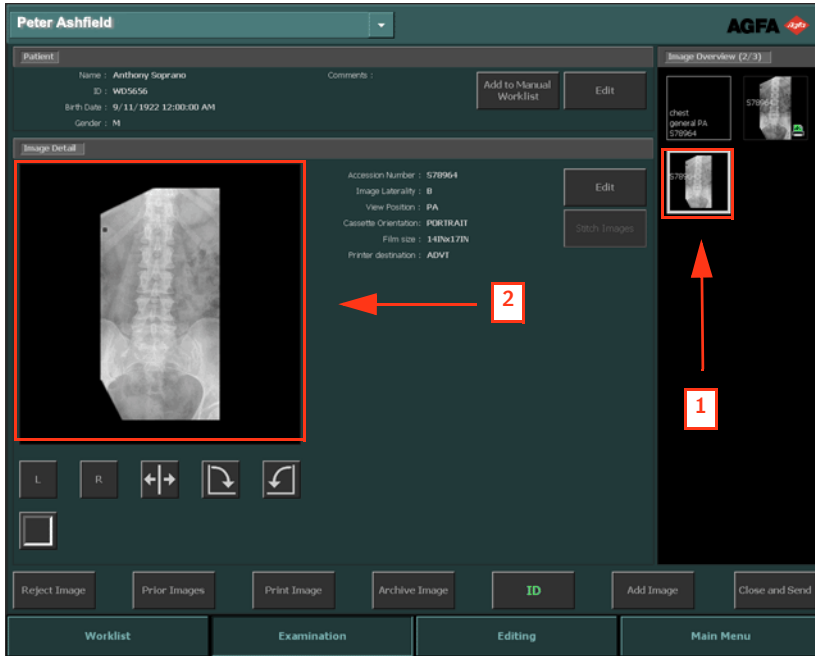










Figure 20: Examination window with image displayed in Image Detail pane

- 2 Prepare the images for diagnosis by using the tools in the **Image Detail** pane.

The following table explains the functionality of these tools.

Button	Functionality
 Figure 21: Left Marker button	Adds a left marker. Click the button, and then click the image where you want to place the marker. To remove the marker, select it and then press the Delete button.
 Figure 22: Right Marker button	Adds a right marker. Click the button, and then click on the image where you want the place the marker. To remove the marker, select it and then press the Delete button.
 Figure 23: Flip button	Flips the image around the vertical axis.
 Figure 24: Rotate Counterclockwise button	Rotates the image 90° counterclockwise.
 Figure 25: Rotate Clockwise button	Rotates the image 90° clockwise.

Button	Functionality
 Figure 26: Black Border button	Turns on or off the black borders for masking non-relevant image areas.
 Figure 27: Full Screen button.	Switches the active image to full screen mode.
 Figure 28: High Priority Marker button.	Enables you to put a high priority marker on the image. The image gets the highest priority in the printing and archiving queues and a high priority DICOM attribute that can be used to make a selection on the archiving station.



Note: The available buttons depend on the configuration in the NX Service and Configuration Tool. Refer to the Key user manual for more information.

3 If all images are OK, click **Close and Send** or press **F4**.

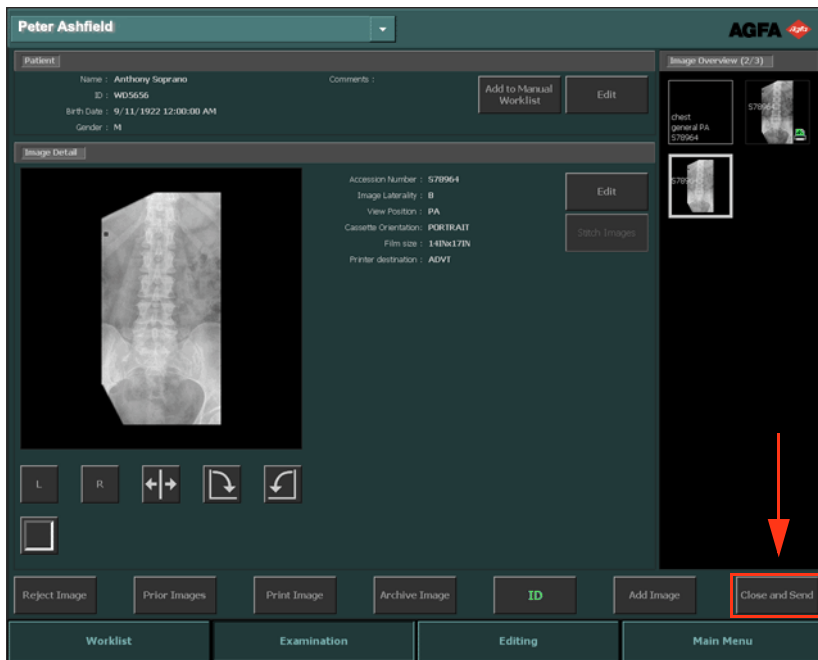


Figure 29: Examination window with Close and Send button highlighted

The images are sent to the printer and/or PACS archive. The exam is placed in the **Closed Exams** pane.

About extensive Editing possibilities

In the **Editing** window, you can perform in-depth operations on an image. In this window, you can also prepare the image for printing.



Note: The tools available in the editing environment are designed to be used by the mouse pointer. This is the most efficient way to perform these more complex tasks.

The **Editing** window has two modes:

- **S mode:** the normal mode focussed on softcopy users; in this mode the print tools are not available.
- **P mode:** the print mode; in this mode the print tools are added to the tools pallet and images are displayed in a WYSIWYG print preview.



Note: In the NX Service and Configuration Tool you can select the default mode, depending on your workflow (print or PACS).

The following toolsets are available in both modes. The tools are displayed in several task-specific sections:

- **Select:** general tools to manage the images.
- **Annotations:** add diagnostic annotations to images.
- **Flip-Rotate:** change the geometry of images.
- **Zoom:** change the view of an image.
- **Image Processing:** process images before printing.

The **Print** mode has an additional tool set to prepare the image for printing.

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