Speed Up Care Coordination Between Radiology and Clinicians

Picture Archiving and Communication Systems (PACS) have greatly enhanced clinician productivity and boosted the use of digital imaging to provide accurate and timely diagnoses. PACS investments to-date have largely focused on optimizing the presentation, distribution, storage and retrieval of patient images, but have not addressed the integration of clinician-to-clinician communication and collaboration into imaging workflows.

Consider these statistics:

- More than 280 million diagnostic imaging tests are done annually, generating thousands of calls daily to ordering clinicians from radiology.[1]
- In radiology alone, radiologists who rely on manual workflows may spend several hours a day communicating stat, critical and abnormal findings to ordering clinicians. Manual processes are hard to track and make it challenging to provide required compliance reports for The Joint Commission and other accreditation agencies.

Shouldn't PACS managers have an efficient way to get critical results into the hands of care teams to speed care coordination?

Automating PACS Workflows

A clinical collaboration platform solution that integrates with PACS can eliminate manual processes. It can reduce time spent making calls, improve ordering clinician satisfaction, satisfy audit requirements and help meet national patient safety goals.

Here's how a CCP solution that integrates with PACS can improve radiology operations as well as patient care:

AUTOMATE MANUAL PROCESSES: Many hospitals still report and log critical PACS results manually, which wastes valuable time of radiology staff and ordering physicians and can delay care. A solution that can send textual messages from radiology with a reference image significantly reduces costs and saves time while improving patient care.

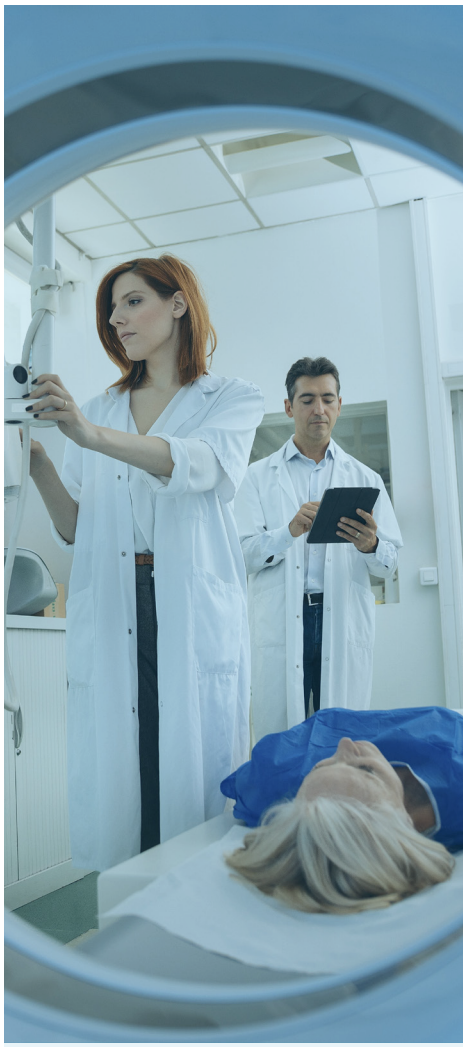
RETURN TESTS IN A TIMELY MANNER: One of The Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goals mandates that hospitals get important test results to the right person on time. With a comprehensive CCP, results information gets into the hands of the care team in real-time. The solution should enable the PACS manager to monitor which messages have been read and acted upon, and which messages were escalated.

CLOSE THE LOOP ON REPORTING: Besides improving communication and patient care, a CCP should create an audit trail with all messages, delivery confirmations and acknowledgements. In addition to providing an audit trail, the solution's PACS alerts should flow into the patient's EHR.

CLOUD-BASED FOR EASY ACCESS AND MANAGEMENT: A cloud solution requires no investment in new hardware or software and involves minimal set up. Critical PACS results are available from wherever there is an internet connection, enabling a shared PACS workflow and improved collaboration across multiple facilities.

A clinical collaboration platform that integrates with PACS can help to significantly transform imaging workflows, drive higher clinician productivity, enhance patient safety and quality of care and facilitate better regulatory compliance.

[1] Source: Consumer Reports, Medtronic, Johns Hopkins Medicine, GAO, FDA



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Jon is responsible for integrating health system networks, particularly the critical areas of programming secure interfaces between hospitals, EMRs and clinician data. With more than two decades of experience in the secure healthcare communication arena, Jon is an important resource not only for the development of the platform, but for our Halo Customers as well.