

WHITEPAPER

Maximizing Your RadNet Radiology System

OVERVIEW

In today's fast-paced, "get it done yesterday world", wouldn't it be nice to have a Radiology Information System (RIS) that is completely streamlined? From patient registration to order entry and finally, the distribution of images and results, Cerner's RadNet Radiology Information System (RIS) allows your facility to optimize revenue and improve staff efficiency. Some of the benefits of an integrated RIS include: [streamlined workflow](#), [access to vital patient information](#), [increased performance](#) in both clinical and operational areas, [increased patient safety](#) and [reduction in medical error](#).

STREAMLINED WORKFLOW

The use of Cerner's RIS allows your department to follow a patient from scheduling to billing. Patients will be able to schedule an appointment by calling the radiology department or centralized scheduling desk. By building the appropriate questions to ask in the system, the scheduler will be able to schedule your patient in the most appropriate time slot, schedule multiple resources and resolve any scheduling conflicts. Once scheduled, the Cerner RIS manages order entry by using worklist management, image interpretations, as well as image and result distribution. With integration of the Cerner RIS and PowerChart (Cerner's Electronic Medical Record), radiology clinicians have access to critical data such as allergies, lab values, current medications or any other information vital to the patient with the click of a mouse. Medicare ABN checking can be completed during either the scheduling or check in process in order to prevent lost revenue. RadNet will also allow exam coding and procedural documentation at the departmental level providing a more efficient process and capturing lost charges. The Cerner Radiology Desktop allows radiologists access to the right data at the right time by permitting the user to seamlessly navigate between the other Cerner applications such as Cerner Provision PACS.

PATIENT SAFETY

As stated previously, access to vital patient information is available with the click of a mouse. With allergies recorded in one location in PowerChart, there is more control over ensuring that procedures are not performed on patients at risk. Additional patient safety is achieved using alerts. This may include such things as a notification of an abnormal lab value such as Creatinine which may be contraindicated for specific radiology procedures. Conversely, if a radiologist finds an abnormal result, the result can be flagged with a critical or abnormal factor which triggers a rule notifying the referring physician to review a specific result. Preliminary findings are available with RadNet's wet read capabilities. Integrating digital dictation into the RadNet Desktop system adds some additional efficiency which reduces the opportunity for mismatching errors, more efficient report creation and improved turnaround time for reports. By automating your radiology processes, access to clinical information from any location in order to expedite clinical decision making is easily achieved.

About the Author

Dianne Isbell is a Sr. Consultant at ICG and has extensive experience designing building and implementing Radnet as well as Core and INet. Dianne has over eight years experience working with Cerner solutions.

Contact Us

For more information on installing Cerner's Radnet System, contact Robert Smith, Cerner Practice Director, for Innovative Consulting Group at rsmith@innovativecg.com.

Innovative Consulting Group

9210 Petersburg Road
Evansville, Indiana 47726
Phone: 866.888.8253
innovativecg.com

INCREASED PERFORMANCE

Improved efficiency as well as increased revenue should be expected outcomes when RadNet is installed. Measurement of improvements pre and post implementation should be included in your project plan in order to provide an executive overview of the benefits realized. Some of those benefits will include the following:

- A reduction in paper will occur due to the use of online worklists, electronic clinical documentation and the integration of document imaging
- Transcribed results posted to PowerChart can be linked to online PACS images providing physicians with information at their fingertips regardless of where they are located
- The PACS system works seamlessly with RadNet due to Visual Desktop Integration (VDI), which prevents radiologists from logging into a number of different systems. Since the systems are integrated, the opportunity for errors is greatly reduced.
- CPT and ICD9 data is collected at the point of care improving the accuracy of reimbursement and reducing the number of billing rejections.
- Real-time outcomes analysis for clinical and operational data gives an immediate snapshot of the performance of the RIS.
- Improved turnaround time for access to online reports/results.

RECAP

RadNet also offers a wide range of tools for tracking images, either from outside or from within your facility. Using online graphical representations of the image folder hierarchy, user can locate studies with ease and speed. Following a patient and exam tracking is easier and more efficient with the use of RadNet. The RIS allows for tracking of multi-step procedures, instant workload updates, and a graphical display of the patient's location throughout the department or organization, thus, integrating patient tracking.