

At a Glance

Organization

Children's Hospital of Omaha
Omaha, Neb.

- 142-bed nonprofit, pediatric hospital including ED
- 25 specialty clinics
- 8 outreach clinics

Solution Spotlight

- Horizon Medical Imaging™
- Horizon Rad Station™
- Horizon^{W/P} Physician Portal

Critical Issues

- Large number of remote clinics lacking access to the main hospital's radiology department
- Referring physicians with no access to patient images and records throughout the region

Results

- Radiology shut off all plain films in two weeks; facility went 100% filmless within two months
- Centralized all reading services for all sites in main hospital
- Increased imaging volume by 40%
- Report turnaround times dropped to less than 30 minutes
- Referring physicians can view images in their office

Children's Hospital of Omaha Decreases Report Turnaround Times, Increases Imaging Study Volume with PACS

As the only pediatric specialty healthcare center in Nebraska, Children's Hospital of Omaha accepts patients from a region that extends into Iowa and Kansas. The hospital identified the need for an enterprisewide picture archiving and communication system (PACS) that enabled access from any one of its 25 remote clinics. After implementation of the Horizon Medical Imaging™ PACS, Children's Hospital became 100% filmless with centralized reading to significantly drop report turnaround times and increase patient volume.

Challenges

After moving into a new facility on Sept. 30, 2000, Children's Hospital identified the need for an enterprisewide PACS. With a large number of remote clinics, access from outside the main hospital was critical.

A PACS committee comprised of radiologists, physicians, emergency department (ED) staff, IT and referring physicians evaluated 12 vendors over a one-week period. The radiologists examined functionality while others evaluated features that affect workflow and provide information at the point of care.

The committee also examined system evaluations from industry sources such as KLAS, Frost &

Sullivan and MD Buyline and issued a request for proposal (RFP).

Answers

Upon final evaluation, McKesson became the vendor of choice. The Horizon Medical Imaging solution from McKesson offers viewing of any modality throughout the enterprise regardless of where it originates. Horizon^{W/P} Physician Portal is a single sign-on gateway providing secure access to data, including inpatient and outpatient information, with personalized views tailored to the practice's preferences. Clinicians have access to patient test results as soon as they are available to help ensure timely treatment decisions.

"Our radiologists were the key drivers for selecting McKesson, primarily due to the Horizon Rad Station™ system's functionality and tool set," says Rob Foster, PACS coordinator. "The other consideration was McKesson's Web portal. Our referring physicians on the committee reported it was easier to use than other solutions."

Results

In December 2004, Children's Hospital began installation of the Horizon Medical Imaging PACS. Workstations were rolled out throughout the facility and all modalities except X-ray and DXA were connected. Within three days, the main hospital went live.

Case Study

**"This solution is real life,
not vaporware."**

Rob Foster

PACS Coordinator

Children's Hospital of Omaha

"Our goal was to go filmless within 30 to 60 days," explains Foster. "But in less than two weeks we were able to shut off all plain films because the radiologists were already so adept at using the system." By February 2005, the facility was completely filmless.

Radiologists became more efficient reviewing electronic images. The immediate availability of prior exams and past history helped facilitate faster and more accurate diagnoses.

A significant result of the PACS implementation is the drop in radiology report turnaround times (TAT). "TAT dropped dramatically to less than 30 minutes," Foster adds. At the same time, imaging study volumes increased. "Historically, we've performed 45,000 exams each year. After implementing PACS and the new modalities, we increased that volume by 40% in just six months," relays Foster. In the first eight months of 2007, Children's Hospital performed slightly more than 33,000 imaging studies.

PACS has also enabled Children's Hospital to centralize radiology reading at the main hospital. According to Foster, a freestanding orthopedic clinic connects to Horizon Medical Imaging via the Web, while two urgent care clinics conduct CR studies and perform initial reads with the Horizon Rad Station solution. All CR images

generated at a new orthopedic and internal medicine/family practice clinic in Lincoln, one hour away, will be read by radiologists situated in the central reading room in Omaha. Referring physicians, regardless of location, also have the capability to view images in their office through Horizon^{WP} Physician Portal.

Since the initial implementation, new studies have become available for viewing on the PACS, such as three-foot scoliosis images from digital radiography (DR). Advanced 3D visualization tools help the radiologists review and manage the enormous image volume generated by a new multislice CT. The facility was also able to increase storage requirements, and Foster anticipates future integration of voice recognition and OrthoView orthopedic pediatric templates into Horizon Medical Imaging.

Much of the implementation success Foster attributes to McKesson. "They have excellent customer service and inside sales teams," he says, "with excellent project management capabilities and a workflow team that designed a process specific to our needs. In fact, we are still using that same workflow scheme today."

Foster best sums up Horizon Medical Imaging PACS: "This solution is real life, not vaporware."

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