

First Radiology Suite Solution for Hereford



Kodak | Medical Systems



First UK RIS/PACS Solution brings improved patient care.

The County Hospital, Hereford, has been filmless, with the exception of mammography, since first opening its doors in July 2002. Kodak has partnered Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust every step of the way, successfully implementing digital capture and PACS across the enterprise. The hospital is now the first in the UK to upgrade to a fully operational Kodak RIS/PACS platform bringing significant workflow improvements for radiologists and the ability to extend PACS and RIS beyond the hospital environment into the wider community.

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The County Hospital

"Our previous Kodak System 4 PACS (Picture Archive and Communications System) worked well so it was a natural progression to move to the latest System 5 with RIS (Radiology Information System) once it became available," explained Malcolm Williams, Radiology IT Manager for the hospital. "The system went live in June and is proving a roaring success as a functioning clinical platform connected to all modalities. Kodak is working with individual clinicians within the Trust to ensure a smooth roll-out as the system integrates fully into the workflow. Users find it very intuitive, more user friendly and

there is confidence that images and clinical referral information will always be available when and where they are needed. Also, the manipulation tools for diagnostic reading are excellent."

Designed with the aim of increasing efficiency in reporting for radiologists, the new system avoids the need to access separate systems. "Previously, the radiologist would have to access patient demographic details and history on RIS, images on PACS and then dictate a report into a third system. With the new system, the whole process is launched instantly and simultaneously, with everything the radiologist needs displayed on one workstation. This fully integrated PACS and RIS platform will bring clinical care

and efficiency benefits as well as faster reporting and convenience for clinical staff. The process will also be further enhanced as we incorporate the Philips SpeechMagic voice recognition."

The implementation of the Kodak RIS 2010 web module, interfaced to patient demographics and the PACS is also proving a huge advantage for clinicians requesting reports. "Our previous RIS was confined to Radiology and clinicians in other parts of the hospital were limited to paper reports. The new RIS can accommodate paper based, paper light (scanning requests) and electronic requesting. The RIS 2010 web module has provided users outside Radiology with the ability to track the complete Radiology episode including image availability, preliminary dictation and final verified reports."

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Next step for the hospital is to widen access to the community by distributing patient booking, appointment details, images and clinical reports to referring physicians and General Practitioners within Primary Care Trusts. This will greatly improve communication between the hospital and GPs as they will receive the information in a way that suits them e.g. a radiology report can be e-mailed or embedded into an electronic medical record, with key marked images and the option of viewing the entire imaging study via secure web access. "Initially, patients will retain their dedicated Herefordshire Health ID number, but long term as part of the Government's move to a country-wide electronic patient record, we will adopt NHS patient numbers."

Without doubt, successful implementation of a RIS/PACS platform across both the acute and primary health trusts offers an opportunity for profound and positive changes in the delivery of healthcare.

For Hereford NHS Trust the experience has been and continues to be a positive one. "Kodak made the transition very easy for us and the technical back-up we have received has been exceptional. They have proved an invaluable partner at every phase of our development."



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