

Kodak's Information Management Solution Automates Lifecycle Management of Images, Documents



Kodak

Cover photo: The Memorial Medical Center campus in Springfield, Ill.

Near right: PACS manager Tracy Brown-Hagmann talks with radiology technician Wayne Barber, RT(R).

Far right: Radiologist Lucy Christopherson, MD, reads an imaging exam using a Kodak Carestream PACS workstation.

Memorial Medical Center

Memorial Medical Center, Springfield, Ill., was at a crossroads.

The 562-bed community hospital needed to replace aging radiology and cardiology PACS systems. As part of that process, departmental managers wanted to provide centralized, enterprise-wide access to radiology, cardiology and oncology imaging studies by linking these systems into the facility's IBM storage area network (SAN). They also wanted to establish automated lifecycle management of these studies to reduce administrative overhead.

Although it was an ambitious undertaking, the hospital is now reaping the rewards of a more productive and efficient workflow, and has achieved the centralized access and lifecycle management they desired.

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— Tracy Brown-Hagmann, PACS Administrator

based architecture that supports advanced interpretation tools, fully featured access by remote physicians and easy integration with other information systems and our SAN infrastructure," notes Tracy Brown-Hagmann, PACS Administrator. "Scalability is also extremely important since we are currently processing more than 200,000 radiology

imaging exams a year. Our new PACS can grow with us in the coming years and easily handle double that volume."

She adds: "Kodak's PACS also delivers exceptional speed and performance. The radiologists, referring physicians and technologists are all extremely pleased with its features and functionality."

The team then turned its attention to selecting and implementing a management tool for its imaging studies through the use of Kodak's CARESTREAM Enterprise Information Management (EIM). This solution delivers clinical information lifecycle management of images and information across a variety of platforms. Automated management simultaneously eliminates time-consuming and resource-intensive manual processes by IT staff. It also ensures that data and images are maintained on-line during periods of peak use and near-line or off-line during periods when access is unlikely.

Centralized Management Delivers Benefits

The hospital purchased Kodak's EIM platform to centralize management of radiology, cardiology and oncology imaging studies. Radiology imaging studies are being accessed today and the team is working to bring cardiology and oncology imaging studies online as well.

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— Tracy Brown-Hagmann, PACS Administrator



"Kodak's EIM platform allows us to develop and apply storage plans that dictate how long each study will be kept, what media it will be written to according to its age and when it can be purged from our records," explains Kathy Ambbs, Radiology Director.

EIM software reads 32 different DICOM fields and applies user-specific storage plans. The hospital's radiology, cardiology and oncology teams worked together to develop 13 different storage plans. These plans are automatically applied by the software according to the type of study, i.e. pediatric, mammography, general radiology, oncology, cardiology and others.

"Kodak was the only vendor we met with that offered user-defined storage plans. Two other vendors told us they would have this capability in a few years," said Brown-Hagmann. Kodak's EIM platform also offers a data migration tool that will be used to move data from the previous PACS archive to the current storage platform in a last in, first out strategy.

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Web-Based Distribution System Provides Advanced Tools

As part of the PACS installation, the hospital also installed a Web-based distribution system from Kodak that makes imaging studies available to remote physicians. The new distribution system is extremely popular because it is easy to use and because it allows remote physicians to employ advanced functionality (normally found only on diagnostic workstations) regardless of the type of workstation they are using.

"The ability to use advanced tools is especially important when on-call surgeons are reviewing imaging studies remotely," notes Radiology Manager Karen Mitchell. "The surgeons at our hospital and other on-call specialists love this system. It equips them with the information they need to make treatment decisions in minutes and provides better patient care."

The new Web distribution system also provides access to a global worklist, so remote users can view all types of imaging studies. This streamlines workflow in many situations, Mitchell adds.

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— Karen Mitchell, Radiology Manager

Radiology Director Kathy Ambs (left) and Radiology Manager Karen Mitchell discuss the excellent image quality provided by Kodak's Web-based distribution system.



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**— Kathy Ambs,
Radiology Director**

Smooth Implementation, Integration with IBM SAN

The hospital's new PACS and EIM solution went live in the last quarter of 2005 without a glitch, thanks to the tireless efforts of a Kodak project management team and the hospital's IT and radiology staffs.

The Kodak project manager earned high praise from Memorial Health System's Senior Vice President and CIO Kerra Guffey.

"The Kodak project manager was extremely knowledgeable about both the KODAK PACS and the process," Guffey reports. "She outlined each step that needed to be taken to accomplish a smooth implementation and held everyone accountable for the action item and the time frame. She also worked closely with our IT staff, which was essential since Kodak's PACS was being integrated into our centralized storage architecture."

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