

Large Cancer Care Provider Praises Quality, Cost Effectiveness of CARESTREAM Hosted Information Management

Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers (Denver, Colo.) has built a large and successful practice by combining leading-edge technology with patient convenience. RMCC pioneered the delivery of chemotherapy on an outpatient basis in the early 1990s — a practice that has now become standard.

RMCC was looking for the same combination of technology and convenience when it implemented a KODAK CARESTREAM PACS (picture archiving and communication system) about two years ago. The practice needed an efficient means to route diagnostic imaging exams, and associated patient records, captured at six locations across the state to its radiology groups for reading. It also needed a convenient way to share the exams and reports with its 68 oncologists and other community physicians that it serves.

Managers selected the CARESTREAM PACS platform because it offers ease of use, flexibility and fully featured Web-based distribution. "Our radiologists appreciate the efficiency with which images are delivered by the CARESTREAM PACS platform and our oncologists appreciate the functionality and timeliness offered by its Web-based access," said Lisa Bruehahn-Propernick, R.T. (R)(T), RMCC's Director of Radiation Oncology and Diagnostic Imaging.

In keeping with HIPAA privacy requirements, RMCC's system delivers patient information to authorized physicians only.

Payment Based on Amount of Stored Data

In addition to image access and distribution, the practice also addressed its need for storage, disaster recovery and business continuity, according to Elaine McDonald, Director of Diagnostic Imaging, Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers.



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"Our management team evaluated KODAK CARESTREAM Hosted Information Management (HIM) and found that it was more cost effective than setting up duplicate equipment with associated personnel expenses at a remote site," McDonald explained. "RMCC also found that paying a per-gigabyte fee was more efficient than maintaining a backup system ourselves — and much more convenient."

Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers currently sends images simultaneously to its central server and to the CARESTREAM HIM remote data center. The practice stores 18 months of diagnostic images on a RAID storage system at its central business office, with older images being purged as new studies arrive. Long-term storage is also maintained at the CARESTREAM HIM data center.

In addition to archival storage, this hosted solution provides immediate information access in the event of a local disaster. "Our physicians could access records from the CARESTREAM HIM storage system via the Internet and continue to treat patients even if our data center was disabled," notes McDonald. "If our equipment has to be replaced, the HIM service will transfer data back to our new servers so we can rebuild our patient records very quickly."

Bruehahn-Propernick adds that the hurricanes of 2005 reinforced the value of a remote hosted storage solution for disaster recovery.

"It is no longer acceptable to have your disaster recovery site a few miles away or even across town from the primary data center. It really needs to be in another state," she reports. "When we saw what was happening to healthcare facilities and patients in the effected areas, we knew we had made the right decision."

About CARESTREAM Hosted Information Management

A CARESTREAM solution duplicates the data stored in a healthcare provider's on-site archive at a secure off-site facility. This remote archiving solution can intelligently manage DICOM images, patient records and almost all forms of clinical and business information. The HIM team can also assist in preparing and implementing business continuity plans to identify and resolve vulnerable areas within a healthcare provider's environment and streamline data recovery in the event of a disaster. To learn more about KODAK CARESTREAM Hosted Information Management, please contact your Carestream Health representative or call 1-877-865-6325, ext. 655. You can also visit us online at www.carestreamhealth.com.



Carestream Health, Inc.
150 Verona Street
Rochester, NY 14608

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