

Hospital CIO Commends KODAK CARESTREAM Solutions for Intelligent Management of Stored Data, Images



Kodak CARESTREAM SOLUTIONS

Left photo: Greg Kieliszek, Vice President and CIO; right photo: Elaine Testerman, Director of Diagnostic Imaging, and Chastity McGuire, PACS/RIS Coordinator, review the new workflow design.

Watauga Medical Center, Boone, N.C.



Healthcare IT professionals may not associate Kodak with storage solutions, but that would be a mistake, according to Greg Kieliszek, Vice President and CIO, Watauga Medical Center in Boone, N.C.

Watauga Medical Center recently purchased KODAK CARESTREAM Information Management Solutions (IMS) as part of a multi-phase strategic plan to update the hospital's clinical information systems and IT infrastructure.

The hospital is establishing a new centralized IT infrastructure to support continued growth in data as well as future applications including CPOE, decision support and others. After evaluating major storage vendors, Kieliszek selected KODAK CARESTREAM Enterprise Information Management, one of Kodak's family of CARESTREAM Information Management Solutions.

"I was the first to say: 'What does Kodak know about supporting non-radiology applications?' But as we evaluated vendors, I found that Kodak understands the broad needs of enterprise-wide information management for clinical and non-clinical applications. Kodak also demonstrated that its software offers

clinical information life cycle management (CILM), which many other storage systems' vendors do not offer."

Benefits of Clinical Information Life Cycle Management

Instead of simply storing data, CILM software reads the metadata associated with archived information and applies site- and content-specific storage plans to it.

These storage plans are based on user-defined rules that strike a balance between both the clinical need for information over time and the desire to achieve the lowest storage costs possible.

Kodak's IMS allows Watauga and other users to set guidelines for migration and retention of data, which can include moving or copying information to on-line, near-line or off-line storage systems, as well as compressing or even deleting data after the necessary retention period has elapsed. Each facility may have dozens of storage plans to manage clinical data, clinical images and non-clinical information.

In addition, the KODAK IMS can manage DICOM and non-DICOM images and information stored across multiple sites, storage platforms and architectures. "Kodak's CARESTREAM IMS is significantly more efficient and more cost-effective than purchasing and maintaining silos of storage for each discrete information system. It's also a more elegant centralized storage management platform than was previously available," Kieliszek explains.

While the hospital is building its new IT infrastructure, it is simultaneously installing a new KODAK CARESTREAM RIS. "We needed to replace our existing radiology information system (RIS) because it did not offer the functionality to support a fully featured PACS, which we are installing as part of our next phase," he says.



Elaine Testerman, the hospital's Director of Imaging, notes that the hospital selected Kodak's RIS because of its streamlined scheduling capabilities, ability to provide continuous tracking of patients, and comprehensive reports that will enable the hospital to better utilize personnel and equipment. For example, imaging study volumes can be viewed by room and by modality to see which rooms are under- and over-utilized. Staff assignments can also be tailored to match each day's schedule, which simultaneously promotes productivity and patient satisfaction.

Kodak Workflow Re-Design Optimizes Digital Workflow

It was during the RIS evaluation that Watauga's team realized the benefits of Kodak's workflow analysis and redesign service. As part of this service, a Kodak team examines and maps a facility's workflow and documents each step in the delivery of radiology services. The Kodak team meets with each user group to recommend an optimal workflow for the new digital environment and to explain its benefits.

"Kodak's imaging expertise helped us optimize our entire workflow," says Testerman. "Kodak also conducted the evaluative process in a way that brought our entire team together and established cooperative support for our new digital systems."

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As a result of the workflow analysis, all members of Watauga's radiology services staff — including clerical staff, technologists and radiologists — have a road map for current and future processes.

"This map guides the design of our RIS and is a big reason why we are ahead of schedule for its implementation," Testerman reports. "We expect to eliminate 40 to 60 percent of the steps in our current process. As a result, we are projecting the ability to handle at least 20-25 percent more patients with existing staff. Since our patient volumes are continuously increasing, that is a significant benefit."

She notes that other RIS vendors did not offer a workflow evaluation service. "We view the workflow analysis process as a critical element in transitioning to a digital environment. Implementing RIS and PACS is not just about purchasing new technology, it's also about converting to a new way of delivering radiology services that offers enhanced satisfaction for patients and referring physicians, while enabling greater productivity for technologists and radiologists," she explains.

Testerman adds: "Thanks to Kodak's workflow analysis and redesign, our new digital workflow will allow us to focus on patients instead of paperwork."

Implementation

Summary

Watauga Medical Center selected KODAK CARESTREAM Information Management Solutions for its new centralized IT infrastructure that will support clinical and non-clinical data and applications.

For more information about KODAK CARESTREAM Solutions, please visit: www.kodak.com/go/medical.



Kodak

Health Group

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY

343 State Street

Rochester, NY 14650

1-877-TO-KODAK (1-877-865-6325) ext. 277

KODAK CANADA INC.

3500 Eglinton Avenue West

Toronto, Ontario M6M 1V3

CANADA

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