

# PACS Expanding to Include Doctors Hospital, Hughston Hospital

Physicians at Doctors Hospital and Hughston Hospital will soon have instant access to imaging studies with the expansion this quarter of the digital McKesson Horizon Medical Imaging Picture Archiving and Communications (PACS) from The Medical Center to both facilities.

"The PACS deployment is another example of the Columbus Regional commitment to high-quality patient care and superior outcomes," said Doug Colburn, Chief Information Officer at Columbus Regional. "PACS will provide clinical process improvement opportunities as well as positively impact physicians' timely access to imaging studies."

Physicians at both facilities agree.

"PACS is a great step forward," said Dr. Christopher Tidwell, a pulmonologist at Doctors Hospital. "It will drastically improve the healthcare provider's ability to easily access and review the x-rays of the patients they are caring for. I believe this will translate into better patient care."

"PACS will improve the quality of patient care by delivering timely and efficient access to the images, diagnostic reports, 3D reconstruction capabilities and related clinical patient data," said Dr. Jason Maloney, from the Hughston Hospital perspective.



*Dr. Charles Ray illustrates 'before PACS' with hard copies of radiology film in the background and 'after PACS' with digital images on an iPad.*

The PACS expansion will help to create a seamless medical imaging and reporting system for Columbus Regional. Healthcare professionals will have the ability to share and collaborate on medical imaging studies across multiple sites and multiple clinical specialties.

Other positives include:

Radiologists can consult with colleagues without leaving their workspace.

The workflow will be optimized, allowing all personnel involved in patient care – technologists, radiologists and referring physicians – to contribute to the efficient delivery of patient care.

Reporting will be improved through interactive voice dictation software with results turnaround times decreased by 90 percent in most cases.

Referring physicians will gain fast access to reports and images through one secure Web portal.

The need for file purging and off-site film storage will be eliminated.

The expansion of PACS is a step forward toward Quest 2015, a clinical transformation project focused on implementing new technology for clinical and financial functions as we move toward an essentially paperless health system by 2015.



## Eye on Clinical Quality, Value Saves \$1.4 Million

After over a year of pursuing savings opportunities on clinical products and services, the Clinical Quality Value Analysis (CQVA) teams are ready to celebrate their success. The four teams comprised of clinical and non-clinical employees will save almost \$1.4 million a year for Columbus Regional.

"Having clinicians on our teams has been very advantageous," said John Ross, director of Materials Management at The Medical Center. "We are very much focused on making certain that the safety and quality of care for our patients are not sacrificed for cost savings and the new materials provide equal or greater value."

"I asked John upon his arrival to create a culture of savings that was sustainable, and he has done a great job making this his day-to-day priority," said Senior Vice President Don Elder. "All four of the CQVA teams are engaged and have a level of excitement in routinely looking at ways to save costs while doing what is best for the patient."

For example, the CQVA's Inpatient Team looked at peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC) supplies. PICCs are inserted into the arm and can be used for IV medications, fluids and sometimes for drawing blood. Team members Tod McCrory and Amy Henry, R.N.s on the hospital's PICC team, were instrumental in considering a trial product from another vendor. "In the end, we decided to use

the current product but were able to obtain price concessions from the current vendor," said Mr. Ross. "Having Tod and Amy, registered nurses, on the team was very beneficial and helped push our current vendor in the direction we wanted them to go."

In another initiative, the CQVA's Radiology/Cath Lab Team determined it was more cost effective to switch to other vendors for some of their procedure supply trays, saving approximately \$16,000 a year. "Team members Freda Stewart and Tammy Hughes were instrumental in working to get valuable physician input and approval."

The Surgical Team, with the help of clinicians Nathan Long, Susie Manning and Tina Reeves from Surgery, was able to obtain \$64,000 a year in savings by changing a cranial plating system used by neurosurgeons. "We accomplished the switch in cranial plating the right way, with the involvement of our clinical team members, neurosurgeons, and their physician assistants and team members like Nathan, Tina, and Susie driving the process," Mr. Ross said.

The CQVA teams have been working over the past year with a consultant from VHA, a nationwide network of community-owned healthcare systems. This consultant relationship will soon end, and new goals have been established by the team for the future, including more interdisciplinary involvement.

Hospital Team	No. of Initiatives	Implemented Savings Annualized	Implemented Savings (CY10)	Implemented Savings (CY11)
Inpatient	40	\$ 89,576	\$ 39,065	\$ 50,511
Non-Clinical Support	2	\$ 59,224	\$ 38,095	\$ 21,129
Radiology/Cath Lab	38	\$ 180,768	\$ 28,901	\$ 151,867
Surgical	74	\$1,140,674	\$ 38,698	\$1,101,976
<b>Totals</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>\$1,470,242</b>	<b>\$144,759</b>	<b>\$1,325,483</b>