Zero CDROM Initiative #DITCHTHEDISK

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Topic
Enterprise Imaging

Background/Problem Being Solved
We present our experience deploying a Zero CD initiative at an academic healthcare institution with a large referral base. High volume healthcare institutions can spend exuberant amounts of money to provide patients with physical copies of their imaging studies on CDROM. Very often, these imaging studies are then copied from the provided CDROM into the PACS system at another healthcare institution. In order for a healthcare organization to realize large cost savings, increased speed of image exchange, and improved patient outcomes and satisfaction healthcare organizations must adopt a secure digital media exchange for diagnostic imaging studies.

Intervention(s)
The healthcare institution needs to intervene and break the cycle of dependency on physical media that is being utilized to provide access to imaging studies. The intervention needs to incorporate various internal departments, various external healthcare facilities, patients, and referral physicians if the move away from physical media is to be realized. In order to transform the way imaging is exchanged the healthcare system must look to change internal workflows to allow for the implementation of software developed to quickly and securely exchange sensitive imaging data between various entities. When this solution is properly implemented a healthcare institution can leverage their infrastructure, interfaces, policies, and procedures to automate their external imaging ingest as well. This can be done by allowing patients to upload imaging studies from other healthcare institutions into their PACS system with a request for a secondary read. The automation of the imaging ingest workflow can help a healthcare institution recognize savings in many areas including FTE allocation for image export and import activities.

Barriers/Challenges
There are two major barriers that must be hurdled in order to accomplish a full-fledged electronic image exchange. One being the challenge of implementing an electronic image exchange solution while remaining HIPAA compliant. The second challenge will be breaking away from long standing workflows.
Outcomes

The outcome from reducing a healthcare institution's dependency on CDROM media includes reduced expenses, increased efficiencies, and improved patient outcomes and satisfaction.

Conclusion/Statement of Impact

By investing in an electronic image exchange solution a healthcare institution can transform their imaging exchange processes from physical media exchange to a digital media exchange and realize extreme cost savings, reduced wait times, and improve patient care and satisfaction.

Lessons Learned

Breaking the long standing cycle of dependency on CDROM technology for image exchange can be difficult. However, if this endeavor is taken on in a strategically planned fashion a healthcare organization can transform the way they exchange imaging data with external partners. Ultimately, this will result in extreme cost savings, improved quality of care, and increases in patient satisfaction.

Figures
Zero CD Initiative - 2021

YNHHS Savings for 2020

Number of studies sent electronically to patients and providers: 165,019
Average cost to produce a CD with a color label: $2.95
ZERO CD initiative YNHHS cost savings: $486,806

YNHHS Projected Savings 2021

Number of studies sent electronically to patients and providers: 327,528
Projected cost savings: $966,207

Keywords

Applications; Emerging Technologies; Enterprise Imaging; Quality Improvement & Quality Assurance; Systems Management