Five Ways Healthcare CIOs Break Down Departmental Barriers to Bring a Single View of the Patient Care Record to Life

Top CIOs are adopting advanced image management solutions to deliver vital patient care records where and when needed while reducing costs, improving diagnostic efficiency, and addressing Meaningful Use Stage 2 directives.

Healthcare CIOs have been inundated with demands to comply with changing regulatory environments, keep up with clinical technology advances, and innovate. As visionaries, these technology leaders must understand market drivers and stay ahead of trends to insure IT is prepared for the future of healthcare.

Imaging informatics, one of healthcare IT’s fastest growing segments, is poised for explosive change. Aging and siloed image archiving systems are giving way to market demand for anytime, anywhere access to complete patient information. Academic medical centers (AMCs) and integrated delivery networks (IDNs), long the “early adopters” of medical technology, are among the leaders forging new paradigms in enterprise image management. Imaging management technologies, like vendor neutral archives (VNAs) and universal viewers, are on a growth path to archive and access more than 50% of the healthcare industry’s images by 2017. In fact, KLAS predicted in 2012 that 27% of providers planned to include VNAs in their image-storing strategies—that prediction has already been surpassed. CIOs are actively reviewing new image management solutions including vendor neutral archives, workflow solutions, and visualization solutions to address a changing enterprise imaging ecosystem.

Market drivers, including regulatory and reimbursement demands, market consolidation, “big data” management, and EMR deployments, are driving a conversation about patient care and the role that imaging management plays in building, accessing, and sharing a comprehensive, longitudinal view of the patient across the enterprise. Evidence indicates that advances in imaging management are directly and positively impacting referring physician collaboration and care communication. Further, image consolidation is reducing infrastructure and support costs while improving access to data and efficiency of clinical support.

Imaging management technology advances are designed with the referring physician, clinician, and patient in mind bringing a comprehensive patient record to the care conversation while reducing diagnostic and care costs and improving clinical efficiencies.
Delivering a complete longitudinal view of a patient’s care history requires an evolutionary approach.

In the U.S., 68% of every diagnosis uses imaging. By 2016, 600 million studies will be ordered in the U.S. each year requiring 1 million terabytes (1 exabyte) of storage. The real news in these statistics is that, due to a lack of imaging management technology and a reliance on first-generation image archiving and retrieval technology, $26M will be wasted on redundant, unnecessary imaging.

IT teams understand that patient imaging data can no longer stay locked in silos—images are a required component of nearly every clinical evaluation and part of every conversation about care. Hospital systems can no longer ignore the real financial impacts of scattered, unmanageable patient data stores and patient care now requires a consolidated solution. In the wake of these changes and in anticipation of trends that will continue to drive consolidation, collaboration, and communication, CIOs are igniting change in their organizations and across the enterprise.

Patients, referring physicians, clinicians, and diagnosticians are demanding that the underlying technology infrastructure keep pace and IT teams are answering. Here are five ways CIOs are breaking down barriers and bringing a single view of the patient care record to life while reducing costs, improving care delivery, and meeting key regulatory goals. CIOs are actively...

1) ...image-enabling the EMR from a central image repository that supports all specialty departments and all image formats.

Meaningful Use has ushered in increasing levels of required patient data management. Advanced vendor neutral archives are now outpacing PACS deployments five-to-one. VNA solutions allow healthcare organizations to link all images, pictures, videos, and exam data to the patient’s record from one consolidated archive. Specialty departments can continue to leverage local PACS visualization solutions or deploy best-of-breed visualization while solutions like Mach7’s Vendor Neutral Archive consolidate the patient care information to provide a single point of enterprise access through a zero-footprint clinical image viewer for all patient image data.

2) ...delivering anytime, anywhere mobile image viewing with secure, zero-footprint universal viewers.

CIOs have been “going mobile” for years and have adopted BYOD guidelines to facilitate the use of personal mobile devices for patient record viewing and sharing. Solutions like Mach7 Clinical Studio make patient data accessible on any Internet-aware or network-aware device including smartphones and tablets. Clinicians, diagnosticians, and patients are applauding these mobile access advances.

Beyond viewing, mobile imaging now includes image acquisition. Through simple workflows, tools like Mach7’s iModality Mobile App help clinicians quickly capture and integrate images, videos, or notes with related patient records. Captured medical imaging data can be sent directly to an archive or workstation and linked to the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) for immediate digital reference.

3) ...enabling the deployment of best-of-breed advanced visualization solutions for specialty clinicians and diagnostic evaluations.

With rapid advancements in visualization technologies, IT teams have had to adopt a rip-and-replace strategy of PACS to deliver the visualization technologies and capabilities demanded by physicians. These long, expensive, and resource-intensive projects are simply untenable. Today’s image management solutions “deconstruct” the monolithic PACS and replace or augment them with flexible, plug-and-play solutions reducing costs, stabilizing data storage and integrity, and improving communication—all while allowing reading specialists to plug-and-play their visualization solutions of choice.
4) ...preparing for consolidation events and insuring smooth transitions.

With healthcare M&A on the rise, healthcare IT departments must address the migration, synchronization, and ongoing management of electronic medical records. Aging, proprietary, disparate, and expensive PACS must be reconciled across expanding enterprise footprints. “Rip-and-replace” solutions can be time consuming and costly, and many IT organizations simply cannot afford to undergo a multi-year migration and reconciliation project.

VNA solutions like Mach7 Enterprise Imaging Platform, allow consolidating healthcare systems to rapidly cleanse, synchronize, and standardize image management across the enterprise, significantly reducing an organization’s capital investment and ongoing management of disparate image archiving systems.

5) ...extending image sharing and access across the enterprise and the region.

Healthcare CIOs recognize the important role Health Information Exchanges (HIEs) play in the effective coordination of patient care. HIEs provide great value in access and sharing of medical data with and between physicians, facilities, and patients.

Managing and securely sharing diagnostic-quality images, and instantly sharing them in the localized context of the patient’s full medical history helps referring physicians and clinicians provide more effective diagnosis, care planning, and delivery of healthcare services regardless of storage location, format, and modality.

Conclusion

Technology is driving the healthcare industry at a new pace and, as a result, healthcare CIOs are taking on a more strategic role and are leading the charge to consolidate departmental silos while providing clinicians with their technology of choice rather than having technology become a barrier or distraction to patient care. CIOs are seeking out and showcasing technologies like Mach7 Enterprise Imaging Platform that can improve efficiencies, help clinicians perform tasks quicker with less manual intervention, and improve patient care. Imaging management solutions from Mach7 Technologies® unify patient care records and images across departments, facilities, and regions to help physicians and clinicians collaborate and communicate more effectively and make informed decisions more efficiently.

Visit our website at mach7t.com or call us today at (888) 87-MACH7 to schedule a demonstration of Mach7's Enterprise Imaging Management solutions and unlock, unleash, and unPAC your patient imaging records to rebuild your enterprise imaging strategy.

Citations


About Mach7 Technologies®

Mach7 Technologies is a global provider of enterprise image management solutions that allow healthcare enterprises to easily identify, connect, and share diagnostic image and patient care intelligence where and when it is needed. Mach7’s innovative communication and workflow technology delivers complete image management including rapid record identification, integration, synchronization and routing, advanced clinical viewing, and optimized vendor-neutral archiving across the enterprise. Healthcare institutions around the world use Mach7 solutions for archiving, clinical productivity improvement, IT cost savings, health information exchange, meaningful use compliance, and improved patient data communication.