

The Washington Hospital Optimizes Workflow with Web-Based Cardiovascular Image and Information Solution

At a Glance

Organization

The Washington Hospital
Washington, Pa.

- Not-for-profit hospital
- 239 beds
- Fiscal year 2006 volumes:
3,791 CCL cardiac procedures;
656 CCL peripheral
vascular procedures;
6,055 echocardiograms;
225 CVOR OHS procedures

Solution Spotlight

- Horizon Cardiology

Critical Issues

- Digitize the echocardiography department
- Fully integrate hemodynamic monitoring in the cath lab
- Implement remote access to facilitate reading and completion of reports
- Streamline processes
- Reduce manual entry of charges and billing
- Integrate with existing systems

Results

- New clinical efficiencies from Web-based reporting feature
- Fully integrated hemodynamic data in a single cardiac record
- Improved access to prior cardiology exams
- Streamlined inventory management
- Elimination of manual data collection for reporting to the ACC-NCDR

By tapping into McKesson's expertise, The Washington Hospital (TWH) implemented Horizon Cardiology™ to create a cardiovascular department that has increased productivity and streamlined workflow. Today, clinicians read and report echos remotely. In addition, time-consuming manual tasks are eliminated, and staff electronically report data to registries. Most important, Horizon Cardiology's single-database infrastructure enables the cardiologists and other users to easily review prior echos along with images and reports from other modalities.

Challenges

In 2005, The Washington Hospital Heart & Vascular Center embarked on an ambitious plan to implement a cardiovascular information system (CVIS) while converting to digital echocardiography and adding a third cath lab. Hospital administrators believed the automated reporting tools of a CVIS would reduce manual processes, improve information-sharing and create efficiencies across its labs. With two different cardiology groups providing echocardiography services, TWH needed a Web-based digital echocardiography solution that would enable physicians to read and report echo studies remotely as well as to collaborate with partners or referring physicians.

For its cath lab, the hospital wanted a solution that would not only streamline reporting to registries such as ACC-NCDR® but also integrate with its hemo system. This would complete its vision for an automated cath lab. "We wanted a seamless, integrated product that would decrease manual entry and send essential information to systems within our existing infrastructure," explains Marcia Deeb, MBA, cardiovascular information system coordinator.

Answer

After evaluating four vendors, TWH selected McKesson's complete CVIS, Horizon Cardiology. "McKesson's vision behind the cardiovascular image and information management solution was the most dynamic of all the vendors we evaluated," explains Kelly L. Neal, RN, MSN, MBA, director, Cardiovascular Services. "McKesson's solution interfaces with most modalities, particularly within our multivendor echocardiography department." Another key differentiator was the fact that McKesson's hemodynamic system and CVIS are on the same platform, enabling seamless, bi-directional sharing of patient data.

Results

TWH went live with the full McKesson cardiology system in July 2005. Almost immediately, John S. Wilson, MD, FACC, medical director, Cardiology Services, experienced a positive change in departmental workflow.

Case Study

"McKesson's vision behind the cardiovascular image and information management solution was the most dynamic of all the vendors we evaluated."

*Kelly L. Neal, RN, MSN, MBA
Director, Cardiovascular
Services
The Washington Hospital*

"Horizon Cardiology enhances communication throughout the department as well as with the referring physician and patient," explains Dr. Wilson. Before the echocardiography exam is completed, patient data is populated onto the report. Once the report is completed and appears on the patient's chart, a copy is automatically sent to the referring physician.

Horizon Cardiology also streamlines access to previous exams. Cardiologists can review prior echo and cath procedures on one screen. "We are uncovering a lot of useful information on the patient's disease with the ability to easily compare priors and review multimodality images," says Dr. Wilson.

With the Web-based reporting feature, authorized cardiologists can access studies or reports from remote locations. "I practice from several different hospitals," notes Dr. Wilson. "If I have downtime, I'll access Horizon Cardiology from the Web to review exams and complete reports."

In addition to enhanced clinical efficiency with remote access for TWH clinicians, Horizon Cardiology also enables higher productivity for the echocardiography staff because integration with existing systems eliminates manual data entry. Horizon Cardiology interfaces and shares patient information directly with the four echo ultrasound systems at TWH.

The system has been so successful that TWH is currently working with McKesson to correlate data from Horizon Cardiology to submit for echocardiography accreditation.

Deeb and Neal recognize the positive change in administrative workflow after the hospital implemented Horizon Cardiology — particularly, the disappearance of manual data collection for reporting to the ACC-NCDR. "Prior to Horizon Cardiology, our ability to submit information to the ACC data set was fragmented," explains Neal. Horizon Cardiology autopopulates the ACC report with procedural data, increasing staff productivity. In July 2006, TWH successfully submitted its first electronic filing to ACC-NCDR with Horizon Cardiology.

Horizon Cardiology also helps TWH simplify inventory management by providing cost per case information to the administrator.

Choosing McKesson's Horizon Cardiology wasn't just an IT decision. TWH needed a solution that would improve both care quality and hospital efficiency. "We're a smaller community-based hospital but really on the forefront of cardiac care," says Dr. Wilson. The hospital needed a reliable partner to help it meet those goals. "This project worked because McKesson and The Washington Hospital are on the same page," concludes Dr. Wilson.

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