

# The Big Picture

The Provincial RIS/PACS Project Update

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A successful RIS and PACS activation at Concordia Hospital is the highlight of this month's update. On June 2nd, the diagnostic imaging (DI) department went live with the Radiology Information System (RIS). Staff adjusted well to the change, and no critical issues occurred. June 16th is when the Picture Archiving Communications System (PACS) went live hospital wide, followed by activations of both RIS and PACS at the brand new Hip & Knee Institute on June 22nd.

While minor growing pains did occur, many users felt their anxiety relieved once they used the system a few times. Others realized that it will only take a matter of time before they became comfortable with new processes. "It's not as intimidating as I thought it would be," said Cheryl DeVisser, Radiology Office Clerk, as she entered a patient requisition into the RIS.

Kara Bolduc, an X-ray Technologist received some training assistance on site and says she feels like she's catching on quickly. "I'm not fast at it yet, but once I get used to the new workflow, I will find more benefits," she said.

The Hip and Knee Institute had its own unique challenges in opening up a brand new building and adjusting to surroundings, in addition to the new systems. The staff were supported by the RIS/PACS command centre team that helped the main hospital through the activation. The command centre operated from June 2nd until July 3rd.

### **St. Boniface General Hospital**

St. Boniface General Hospital is expected to activate RIS in Nuclear Medicine in early July followed by a planned PACS activation for this summer.

### **Victoria General Hospital**

The Provincial RIS/PACS team is continuing to work with the management and staff at Victoria General Hospital to prepare for migration of historical RIS/PACS information

currently on site to the provincial data center. In preparation for this activity and the subsequent upgrade of the Agfa PACS software, a new server has been installed on site and the team is preparing the new environment for the PACS upgrade.

### **Assiniboine Regional Health Authority**

The Assiniboine RHA RIS/PACS rollout will begin with the project pilot site - the Killarney Tri-Lake Health Center. In the last few weeks, the project team has been working with resources from ARHA and Brandon RHA to create a structure and workflow model as they work through the details to integrate the diagnostic imaging services in the Assiniboine feeder sites with the Siemens system used by Radiologists in Brandon. This model will be presented to the Project Board of Directors.

Construction on the Tri-Lake Health Center is underway to accommodate the new diagnostic equipment that will be delivered for the project. Training for staff on the new systems is also underway. In the next few weeks, the team will confirm the project plan and set milestones for rolling out the pilot project in the fall.

### **South Eastman Health Authority**

The South Eastman region has now completed 30% of the total data migration. The region has allowed the RIS/PACS project to add 25 extra hours per week for data migration, which should allow for the completion of the migration much sooner than the previously anticipated January timeline.

The region has also recently received approval for a bandwidth upgrade, which has been an item on the project radar for some time. In addition, there has been a recent confirmation to increase operating costs for the Primary Data Network (PDN).

The speed of information flow will double in Bethesda Hospital, corporate office, DeSalaberry Hospital, St. Anne Hospital and Vita Hospital.

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