



RCR Imaging Informatics Group

A Special Interest Group of the UK Royal College of Radiologists

Art of Migrating DICOM Data

How to prepare

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PACS Migration is **not** Magic

- Methodical approach
- Sufficient resources
- Start in time
- Project Management
- Continuous follow-up



Early activities

- Address handling the end of next contract
- Quality of data in Source Archive
- What needs to be migrated?
- Constraints?
- Testing

What needs be migrated?

Considerations:

- Legal
- Policy
- Cost benefit

- Conversely – what not to migrate?
 - Test data
 - Research
 - ...

Constraints

- When is the migration complete?
 - Definition of done
- What if it takes longer than planned?
- How do I handle:
 - leftovers?
 - corrupt data?
 - incompatibility?
- What is acceptable?

Costs

– PACS

- Configuration & testing
- Time when two systems need to be maintained

– Migration project

- Project management
- Project activities
- Tools

– Hidden costs

- Decreased productivity
 - e.g. Prior images not available immediately
- “Our time does not cost”

Early Testing

- Start testing early
 - greater possibility to rectify
- Longitudinal tests
 - All types of images from all types and versions of equipment over time
- Images displayed properly
- Annotations and markers

Data Quality in Source Archive

- Patient Demographics
- Study Information

- Image acquisition
 - DICOM Modality Worklist
- Data quality over time
 - Patient merge and update

Poor quality costs

The Pragmatic Pitfall

- Many input parameters that affect the final displaying of the image
- Fault tolerance may differ vastly between systems
- Difficult to detect such compatibility issues
 - These can be uncovered when images are sent to other PACS or workstations.
E.g. Sharing with other institutions.

Check Migrated Data

- Image quality
- Annotations and markers
- Patient & study data
- Has everything been transferred?

Perform these checks:

- As early as possible
- Regularly during the migration

The only constant is change

Thank you for listening!

Questions?

Please feel free to contact me:

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