

St. Luke's Integrates Departments, Physicians and Patient Record with PICOM Enterprise

If you attended any medical conferences this year, there is one word you probably heard repeatedly—integration. Almost every medical software company today must be able to interface with existing or future systems. Thankfully, the push to integrate is facilitated through standardization efforts by groups like Health Level Seven (HL7), ACR-NEMA and IHE.

However, because there are many departments inside hospitals that need to provide access to patient data as well as receive information from other departments, implementation is painfully slow. Each department's needs must be assessed, workflow must be taken into consideration, and action items must be developed in order to ensure that the integration goes smoothly.

The Holy Grail of hospital IT infrastructure is communicating patient information seamlessly between departments. Delivering information from department to department, giving reading physicians the tools they need to view and report on patient studies, and giving referring physicians access to their patient's records is an important goal that many institutions are striving to achieve.

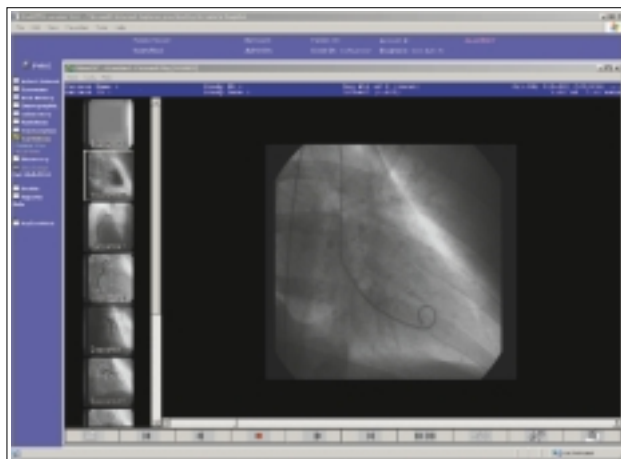
ScImage's PICOMEnterprise is a solution that accomplishes all three of these tasks. At its core, this data management solution uses a web-enabled Electronic Patient Folder (EPF) to store and distribute images, information, demographics and reports from radiology, cardiology or any other department where these types of data are generated. Viewing tools for both static and dynamic images are included along with optional knowledge based reporting and links to third party clinical reporting systems. Additionally, advanced quantitative image post-processing modules such as Oblique Slicing, MPR, Cardiac Scoring, Virtual Colonoscopy, CT/MR Angiography and Bone Mineral Densitometry can also be integrated into PICOMEnterprise. ScImage's primary goal is to provide its customers with a comprehensive solution that can be configured for a variety of needs. It is that flexibility that attracted St. Luke's Hospital in Chesterfield, Missouri. Initially, St. Luke's chose PICOMEnterprise to be their image and information storage and distribution solution for data generated in the Cardiology department because the system provided a way to acquire, manage, distribute and store Cardiac Cath studies inside the hospital.



Founded in 1866 in St. Louis, St. Luke's Hospital is presently located in Chesterfield, Missouri

When St. Luke's chose ScImage as their vendor for filmless angiography they knew their ultimate goal was to incorporate the data residing on PICOMEnterprise as part of an ongoing push to integrate data from all departments in the hospital into an existing solution for managing and distributing patient data. That solution,

WebPINS, short for Web-Enabled Patient Information System, came about as a result of St. Luke's IT team's decision to abandon the weaker elements of an integration program already in progress. WebPINS is a web-enabled physician portal where caregivers can go to gather data regarding their patients' conditions. The GUI displays information about the patient, including name, medical record number, and admit and discharge dates. However, the workhorse of the system is the back-end Sybase infrastructure that includes its database and integration engine. In fact, more than 70 application interfaces have been written through this infrastructure, tying together data from the Hospital Information System, Laboratory, Cardiology, Radiology, Transcription and other data sources.



ScImage's WebPINS interface facilitates clinical data review

The WebPINS interface is user-friendly and can be used to quickly assess a patient's condition. Clicking on a patient name brings up a screen that shows a history of that patient's encounters with St. Luke's. The GUI gives users the ability to view all clinical data by departments that have been integrated into the system.

To help St. Luke's accomplish their goal of creating a physician portal, ScImage worked closely with the engineering team at the hospital. A solution to tie the cardiology data stored on the PICOMEnterprise server inside St. Luke's to the WebPINS interface was successfully implemented. Now when physicians need to gain access to a patient's Cath study, they simply log on to WebPINS and search by patient name or medical record number. When the patient is located, clicking on a link launches the ScImage viewing software and loads the study. If physicians want to see lab results, they simply select that link and the results are displayed.

This allows the hospital to gain access to data from several departments, resulting in a "best of breed" approach. The integration has been so successful that the hospital is now implementing PICOMEnterprise as a solution for their Radiology department. Capturing Radiology studies to the server is a function that is already built-in to the PICOMEnterprise system and the integration to WebPINS will use the existing conduit to add RIS order messaging, making the additional investment minimal.

"The business goal is to get clinical information to physicians at the point of care," said Scott Holtzwarth, St. Luke's Director of Information Services. "Access to a more complete picture of the patient's health condition is critical. The result is better patient outcomes and more informed decisions regarding provision of care. ScImage's engineering team was able to accept our aggressive requirements using their web-enabled foundational technology PICOMEnterprise to accomplish that goal."

For more information visit www.scimage.com or www.picomonline.com or call (866) Scimage (724-6243).