

Radiological Network in Munich, Germany, implements a uniform RIS Solution **One RIS for all Cases**



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Imaging centers are experiencing enormous cost pressure. After the investment in expensive modalities, daily operations should run without interruption. The RADIOLOGY INFORMATION SYSTEM (RIS) acts as core of the workflow management; all cases must be scheduled, archived and billed reliably.

On an average day, the 23 radiologists in the Munich-based imaging center group write 500 reports. On busy days, it can be 700 reports throughout the seven imaging centers scattered across the city - a figure exceeding some university hospitals.

“With the investment in the new medavis RIS we made a decisive step towards more efficiency,” explained Dr. med. Ullrich Schricke, Medical Director of the RADIOLOGICUM. With medavis RIS, all of the group’s sites now share the same workflow. On every site, the same services and materials are registered in the system for each examination. A dedicated task force is responsible for making sure that fee codes and factors are used uniformly throughout all locations. By working within a multi-site network, radiologists benefit from synergies and are able to ensure sustainable economic efficiency.

Strong together

The partners of the Munich-based imaging center

group, Drs. med. Ullrich Schricke, Michael Risch and Michael Röttinger think the greatest advantage of the RADIOLOGICUM is its diversification. Each site in Munich specialises in a distinct diagnostic area of expertise – ranging from microdose mammography, neuroradiology, nuclear medicine, early detection of diseases of the heart, the urogenital tract and blood vessels to the breast centre. “Together we are strong,” is the credo of Dr. Schricke: “Radiology thrives on its referrers. Thanks to our multi-site network, we can provide our referrers with the full range of radiological diagnostic services for their patients.”

This calls for a strong technology partner whose products can actually meet the requirements of such a complex group. After they had defined the requirements specifications and had the first conversations with potential providers, the radiologists from Munich realised that only two vendors would come into question for this decision. “We ultimately selected medavis because we thought that medavis RIS maps our requirements best,” explained Dr. Ullrich Schricke. “Furthermore, we felt in good hands with medavis straight away, as the employees speak our language.” The radiologists are absolutely thrilled about their new RIS ever since they started working with the system. Report writing in particular was

facilitated significantly. The long-standing wish for digital online speech recognition finally came true with the medavis implementation.

Well recognized

Today the radiologists dictate and correct their reports themselves. The typing pool could be downsized from five to two employees. Frequently, the report is available directly after the examination - an additional service for referrers, many of whom already access images and reports of their patients online. Dr. Ullrich Schricke said: "We want to provide good reports in a short time. Nobody should wait for long at our imaging centers - neither for an examination appointment nor for the result." Another important benefit of using a single RIS throughout all sites is the centralised appointment scheduling. Every employee on every site can now directly access the scheduler for all sites. Thus, in urgent cases, radiologists are often able to offer appointments on the same day. If somebody falls down the stairs and tears the meniscus, radiologists cannot let the patient wait for an appointment for three days. Dr. Ulrich Schricke describes one of the advantages of medavis RIS: „Accessing the central appointment scheduling by simply pressing a key and confirming an examination slot can be done quickly on the side."

Seven in one Strike

Doctors as well as assistants benefit from the joint system across the seven imaging centers. It is not unusual that they temporarily work at other sites to fill in for colleagues on vacation or on sick leave. When

logging into the system, all personal settings and user profiles - even for speech recognition - are available at each workstation automatically.

If an evaluating doctor requires a second opinion, one call is sufficient and his colleagues can retrieve images, reports and medical history to provide telera-diology support. As Medical Director, Dr. Ullrich Schricke can also access all the worklists of his colleagues. With a few mouseclicks he can decide if it is necessary to intervene - since occupancy rates of the various sites are not always the same and he can easily see in the system which site still has free capacities.

"We always used the same RIS at all locations. However, the medavis solution is a quantum leap for us", the radiologist said contently. "Today, all sites interlock harmonically. If a patient receives a suspicious mammography report at one site, a biopsy will be done at another site and all patient details are available in the same RIS system without using interfaces."

The radiologists at RADIOLOGICUM in Munich would always settle for medavis again. Their RIS makes them strong and keeps the group together. Unlike for many other medical areas, IT is crucial for radiology. Communication and data archiving must comply with quality assurance rules as well as the German X-Ray regulations. When investing into new technology, radiologists rather think in decades and look for established technology partners that have been firmly rooted in radiology for many years. And with medavis RIS, all cases are in good hands.

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