

## CONNECTICUT RADIOLOGY PRACTICE GOES PAPERLESS

### Connecticut radiology practice goes paperless

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WATERBURY, CT – Naugatuck Valley Radiology Associates, an 18-physician practice at six locations in central Connecticut, has gone paperless with a new radiology information system.

The Waterbury-based practice installed technology developed by Los Angeles-based MedInformatix. The system integrates bi-directionally with PACS, making it possible for physicians to work from any of the practice's offices.

MedInformatix RIS incorporates scheduling, registration, technologist and radiologist workflows as well as billing, EDI, custom reporting and collections. To this core package of information and practice management functions, NVRA has added several key product options including transcription and mammography tracking as well as integrated voice recognition and PACS.

"Our RIS is the core product for our office operation and practice management," said Paul Masotto, NVRA's director. "It was important for us to find a solution that would integrate routine tasks handled by all our employees across our imaging network. We find that it's extremely easy to transition employees to MedInformatix, whether those people are new hires or have multiple years of experience."

The MedInformatix RIS Scheduling module is designed to allow front desk personnel to book appointments for any referring office or procedure at any location. System administrators are able to customize templates and alerts to reflect the practice's work rules.

"Our practice provides services to walk-in patients on a regular basis, which MedInformatix enables us to schedule immediately. MedInformatix is the key component that provides us the flexibility to accommodate these patients," said Masotto.

On the revenue management side, NVRA's MedInformatix system integrates with the practice's clearinghouse provider, ZirMed.

"With ZirMed and MedInformatix we can manage authorizations, verify eligibility, submit electronic claims to all carriers that have EDI capability, track and analyze claim status and accept all remittances electronically," said Paula Bates, NVRA's billing office manager.

Through its affiliation with St. Mary's Hospital in Waterbury, Conn., NVRA uses a custom batch processing utility supplied by MedInformatix, Bates said. This has enabled NVRA to import radiology orders, patient reports and charge information directly from the hospital into the MedInformatix practice management system.

User friendly software and the ease for network integration have been key elements of the MedInformatix RIS, said Masotto. She said the system has made life easier for the practice's clinical users and enabled NVRA to reach its goal of a paperless environment.

"We have chosen to design our radiologist workflow around our PACS, rather than our RIS," Masotto said. "By integrating with our DR Systems PACS and Nuance PowerScribe voice recognition products, MedInformatix enables our radiologists to review images, dictate reports and sign them electronically. The efficiencies gained, as well as the streamlining of workflow and system integrations, have maintained the quality of our patient information."

NVRA is currently beta-testing new capabilities for its MedInformatix system, including a Web referral module designed to allow referring physicians to submit appointment requests and receive reports via the Internet and a patient portal designed to provide patients with access to registration, information sheets prior to arrival, exam information and preps. Also being tested is a corporate dashboard to monitor the pulse of the organization.