

Advanced Data Integration improves radiology reporting for Good Shepherd Health Care System.

Standardizing workflows with PACSgear ModLink

Challenge

- Complex reports required manual data entry from radiologists
- Ultrasound reports needed standard template for delivery to obstetrics teams

Solution

- Nuance® PowerScribe® 360 with Advanced Data Integration with PACSgear ModLink by Hyland

Results

- Reduced time required for radiologists to generate reports
- Automated workflow allowance for standardization of reports and templates
- Improved accuracy and confidence in quality of ultrasound reports

Commitment to continuous improvement

Good Shepherd Health Care System (GSHCS) is a progressive, not-for-profit hospital located in Hermiston, Oregon. With more than 40 active physicians on staff, including a dedicated women's clinic, GSHCS is committed to continuous improvement of patient care, service, safety and efficiency.

The radiology team at GSHCS is particularly busy for a critical access hospital, averaging approximately 35,000 radiology reports annually—about a third of which are for obstetric ultrasounds.



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Ann Minton

Health Information System Analyst, Good Shepherd Health Care System, Hermiston, Oregon

Obstetrical ultrasound reports are time-consuming and pose some reporting challenges due to their complexity. They require numerous fetal measurements to be entered by the technologist during the study, and then re-entered by the radiologist to create the final report. This process, integral to generating a complete report, requires a significant amount of the radiologists’ time and can possibly introduce errors to the final reports. The department also was aware that, because GSHCS employs seven radiologists who work in rotation, final reports often varied widely in structure. This inconsistency was impacting the obstetricians working on these patients’ cases, both at GSHCS and other regional facilities.

GSHCS finds automated solution with Nuance

Ann Minton, health information system analyst for Good Shepherd Health Care System, noted that the hospital had been a Nuance PowerScribe 360 customer for many years, and decided to commission the Nuance team to look at ways to automate and standardize the radiologists’ workflow. Specifically, GSHCS sought a solution that would:

- Create a standard final report that matched obstetricians’ expectations for consistency, aiding their interpretation and having a positive impact on patient care and clinician satisfaction.
- Automate the workflow so ultrasound data points were populated directly from the study, improving data reporting accuracy.
- Reduce the amount of time radiologists spent reporting complicated obstetrical measurements, thus improving productivity and report turnaround time.

Ultimately, Nuance and GSHCS expanded PowerScribe 360 to include Advanced Data Integration. Nuance has

partnered with PACSgear ModLink to craft a solution that automatically transfers structured report measurements from imaging devices directly into PowerScribe 360.

For GSHCS, that has meant their radiologists are no longer required to manually re-enter fetal measurements coming from the ultrasound modality into their final report, ultimately reducing reporting errors by automating data transfer. In fact, with the ModLink solution in place, all incoming data is normalized, conforming to GSHCS’s requirements for size and weight measurements, dates, decimals and so on.

According to Minton, the implementation went well. “We started small with an easier profile that required fewer integrated data points. We worked with an ultrasound technologist to have a better understanding of what measurements would be taken and to make sure we got the right data pulled from the ultrasound device into the report. Once that was built, we introduced it to our radiologists. They were immediately excited, so we began building the remaining 50 or so templates.”

Advanced Data Integration delivers confidence, accuracy and satisfaction

Today, Minton says there is much greater confidence in the accuracy of the ultrasound reports, noting, “The radiologists are saving time in reporting. They’re no longer scrolling through ultrasound images to find measurements; the data is simply there, saving them clicks. That’s a huge point of satisfaction for all of us.”

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