Reducing unnecessary and redundant imaging

Approximately one-third of all medical imaging is unnecessary, costing the healthcare industry approximately $26 billion annually. In addition to being expensive and often non-reimbursable, these unnecessary images are slowing down care and exposing patients to undue radiation without any improvement in clinical outcomes.

If a patient having a stroke is transferred from a local community hospital to an academic medical center, but the CD of CT images is misplaced or unreadable, another set of scans will be ordered prior to treatment. That additional time to rescan the patient delays care and can negatively affect the outcome.

Based on national industry figures, it is estimated that facilities that receive an average of 500 stroke transfer patients per year could save as much as $500,000 annually by harnessing the power of cloud-based image sharing to significantly reduce rescanning rates.

Enabling cloud-based access to patient images

With Nuance PowerShare Image Sharing, community hospitals can share patient images with the stroke center via PowerShare’s cloud-based image sharing network.

This network enables access to medical images and diagnostic reports on-demand, without the need for costly VPNs or CDs.

More than 5,500 organizations already rely on the PowerShare Network, the nation’s largest network for image and report exchanges, and those organizations are supported by PowerShare Outreach Services professionals. They streamline the network building process, connecting physicians and facilities—regardless of their location—on behalf of subscribers and in a matter of weeks.

Organizations will no longer be at the mercy of an unreliable medium like a CD or require an expensive and hard-to-manage VPN-based network that can increase costs and delay care delivery. Additionally, the increased speed and accuracy of imaging will help avoid the cumulative effects of overexposure to radiation from repeat exams, which represent a real health concern, particularly for the elderly and children.

In less than 60 days, one national, for-profit network of cancer care and research centers was able to connect to more than 250 sites, allowing facilities to send imaging directly from their PACS, reducing, and in most cases eliminating, the need for physical handling of media.

Key benefits

- Simplifies and secures access to imaging studies at the point of care, even when studies were performed off-site.
- Streamlines the network building process by leveraging the largest network of health organizations, with BAA agreements already in place.
- Reduces costly and unreliable image exchange methods.
- Improves the patient transfer process with streamlined treatment plans.
- Avoids unnecessary radiation exposure from redundant imaging to improve care quality and patient safety.
- Grows revenue opportunities in key service lines by offering sub-specialty or off-hour reading services.
PowerShare Image Sharing is supported by a 24x7x365 domestic support center, available to the entire network of participants.

**Streamline workflows and enable faster patient treatment**
When a patient’s medical images are available via PowerShare Image Sharing, critical care and trauma teams can determine whether a transfer is necessary, and if so, prepare for the patient’s arrival and promote faster treatment. Access to images can also be available at the point of order, during radiology interpretation, and within EHR workflows.

**Eliminate costly image exchange infrastructure**
Instead of setting up and maintaining complicated VPNs, which only connects individual facilities, PowerShare Image Sharing uses a cloud-based infrastructure to make images available on both desktop and mobile devices.

This eliminates the need for copying medical images to CDs and allows patient images to be transferred securely—without the potential for damage, loss, or encryption errors. Additionally, it avoids the manual and slow process of loading study data from CDs to the PACS.

**Grow revenue opportunities**
Using the PowerShare Network, organizations can grow revenue by expanding their sub-specialty and/or off-hours reading services. PowerShare Teleradiology, for example, enables remote reading of imaging studies, orders, and reports—inclusive of images, orders, and reports—seamlessly from a client’s native worklist, PACS, and reporting solution. Organizations can overcome costly and cumbersome VPN infrastructures, as well as optimize the utilization of subspecialty radiologists.

Organizations can also take advantage of their own MPI to facilitate a Health Information Exchange and more efficient image sharing among subscribers.

**Protect your patient outcomes and your bottom line with PowerShare Image Sharing**
Join the PowerShare Network to access and share medical imaging, build a dedicated community, and identify both new revenue streams and cost-savings opportunities.

To learn more about how PowerShare Image Sharing can help connect healthcare facilities, providers, and patients for quick, convenient, cost-effective, and secure sharing of medical images and diagnostic reports, please contact us at 1-800-350-4836 or visit www.nuance.com/healthcare.

“PowerShare has overwhelmingly improved the efficiency of our workflow, especially in regard to outside images. Physicians love that they don’t have to deal with a CD anymore. PowerShare takes their mind off of whether or not they can access an image—allowing them to focus on treating patients.”

**Josh Pavlovec**
PACS Administrator
Children’s of Alabama

---

**About Nuance Communications, Inc.**
Nuance Communications, Inc. is a leading provider of voice and language solutions for businesses and consumers around the world. Its technologies, applications and services make the user experience more compelling by transforming the way people interact with devices and systems. Every day, millions of users and thousands of businesses experience Nuance’s proven applications. For more information, visit www.nuance.com/healthcare or call 1-877-805-5902. Connect with us through the healthcare blog, What’s next, Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook.