San Diego Imaging Medical Group Launches Enterprise Imaging Strategy with Mach7 Technologies®

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Following a merger of eight regional facilities, San Diego Imaging acts to image-enable their EMR and ensure a complete patient record is available where and when it is needed. Their new enterprise imaging strategy will save time, reduce costs, and improve care delivery and patient satisfaction enterprise-wide.

Goals

- » Realize productivity improvement in the management of imaging data currently stored on PACS across multiple sites.
- » Consolidate and normalize "dirty" patient records.
- » Launch a new physician and patient portal allowing more controlled and secure sharing of patient data.
- » Seamlessly align to a local Health Information Exchange (HIE) service.
- » Increase the value delivered to patients while also meeting key healthcare regulations.

Action Plan

- » Link all image files (DICOM and non-DICOM) to the patient's electronic medical record (EMR) from one consolidated and standardized archive.
- » Deploy tools that allow the IT team to maintain data integrity and security in a more efficient and effective way, reducing the cost of data storage, management, and maintenance.
- » Deliver a simple and accurate view of patient history, labs, images, etc., that can be easily and electronically shared with patients and referring physicians in a timely fashion.
- » Provide access, sharing, and intelligent routing of patient data regardless of its location, originating modality, or viewing requirements.

Expected Outcomes | Ongoing Benefits

- » **Image-Enabled EMR with Improved Routing and Workflow**
- » **Reduced Cost of Data Maintenance, Increased Data Integrity**
- » **Scalability and Access Across the Enterprise**
- » **Availability of the full patient care record, including imaging, resulting in availability of improved analytics to support diagnostic evaluation**

"THE MACH7 VNA AND COMMUNICATIONS WORKFLOW ENGINE ALLOWS US TO BREAK DOWN THE BARRIERS BETWEEN DISPARATE DEPARTMENTAL PACS. MACH7'S PLATFORM GIVES OUR TEAM THE ABILITY TO LINK ALL IMAGES, PICTURES, VIDEOS, AND EXAM DATA TO THE PATIENT'S RECORD FROM ONE CONSOLIDATED ARCHIVE."

Richard Elwell, San Diego Imaging

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About San Diego Imaging Medical Group

San Diego Imaging is a medical group consisting of 60 radiologists covering 8 sites across San Diego County, CA. For nearly 50 years San Diego Imaging has grown with a focus on delivering exceptional care in an innovative, patient-first environment. SDI has grown organically and through key mergers expanding to offer superior radiology services county-wide.

The Challenge

San Diego Imaging merged with North County Radiology Medical Group in 2013 and was immediately challenged with managing disparate silos of archived patient information. Patient data from three data sources (including archives from two different PACS vendors), needed to be rationalized and standardized before being consolidated into a single enterprise image repository.

The new VNA solution needed to support best-of-breed diagnostics and patient care. It needed to address patient safety and ensure that clinical workflows could be supported to continually reduce overall cost of care delivery by cleansing and managing EMR and image data successfully.

SDI also wanted to have the option to share information with a local Health Information Exchange (HIE). Data access and sharing needed to be seamlessly aligned with SDI's infrastructure.

Sharing study information securely and compliantly with referring physicians and patients was also a key goal for SDI. They wanted a portal solution that was standards-based and tailored to SDI's specific requirements.

The Solution

At SDI, the Mach7 solution will be fully integrated into a holistic enterprise data management strategy. This will allow SDI to maximize their infrastructure investments in EMR, PACS, and storage solutions while enabling a simpler, standardized, and more efficient enterprise image management solution.

Leveraging Mach7's customizable Physician & Patient Portal, physicians will have the ability to access and share a complete patient record including images and reports, directly through their EMR from any Internet-aware access point or mobile device.

From "A"ccess to "V"endor Neutrality – A Full Platform for Success

Access and sharing of patient records across the SDI enterprise, including newly merged departments, will give SDI a consolidated view of their patient information. The Mach7 VNA solution will help SDI resolve complex integration issues between PACS vendors, consolidate DICOM and non-DICOM image data, and efficiently reduce PACS migration efforts. Leveraging the Mach7 Communication Workflow Engine, SDI has access to an advanced tool set including intelligent prefetch, rule-based routing, and an intuitive administrative console for monitoring, tracking, and auditing.

What's Next at San Diego Imaging

"When the Mach7 system is completely deployed and archived data migrated, data integrity will be increased with tools that allow the IT team to continually keep data clean and maintained," Mr. Elwell says. "We will also be able to heighten security by owning and controlling our images." Using an architecturally neutral archive will help eliminate the need to maintain disparate, department-specific PACS archives.

One of the key reasons SDI selected Mach7 was because of the sustainable technology platform. "The unique architecture of the solution will allow SDI to scale without limits and extend the communication protocols without an effect on the core application logic," explains Mr. Elwell. SDI will be able to easily spin up a new virtual machine or physical server for instant, on demand scalability.

About Mach7 Technologies™

Mach7 Technologies is a global provider of enterprise image management solutions that allow healthcare enterprises to easily identify, connect, and share diagnostic image and patient care intelligence where and when it is needed. Mach7's innovative communication and workflow technology delivers complete image management including rapid record identification, integration, synchronization and routing, advanced clinical viewing, and optimized vendor-neutral archiving across the enterprise. Healthcare institutions around the world use Mach7 solutions for archiving, clinical productivity improvement, IT cost savings, health information exchange, meaningful use compliance, and improved patient data communication.

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