

Atlanta Medical Center

ViTAL Enterprise Case Study

Profile



Ron Gilbert is PACS Administrator for Atlanta Medical Center (AMC) in Atlanta, GA. Mr. Gilbert is responsible for researching, recommending for purchase, and implementing imaging solutions for physicians throughout AMC. As a technology leader, AMC prides itself on pioneering technologies to improve patient care.

Ron Gilbert, B.S., R.T.R
PACS Administrator
Atlanta Medical Center

Atlanta Medical Center

Founded in 1901, Atlanta Medical Center campus comprises a 460-bed acute care facility sprawled across two city blocks. Accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, AMC includes a 30-bed level III neonatal unit; a level II trauma center; and a comprehensive cancer center.

Its tradition of medical excellence has earned AMC a distinctive reputation for high tech facilities. More often than not, AMC is among the first to offer new technology and procedures.

AMC is a flagship facility of the Tenet Health System.

Situation

AMC was using traditional x-ray film to read, interpret and analyze patient information. As a more manual process, it delayed workflow and communication between physicians. With over 400 physicians using Imaging Services, the facility needed to find an integrated solution that provided access to advanced visualization in multiple locations throughout the enterprise.

Gilbert was tasked with researching, recommending and rolling out a solution that not only met these requirements but also reflected AMC's innovative approach to healthcare. As an industry veteran he knew exactly where to start.

"I've gotten a lot of the best ideas from big institutions and I'm able to implement them here," said Gilbert. "Imaging plays a huge role in our institution – there was a real pent up demand for an effective advanced visualization and PACS integrated solution," he continued. "We knew the physicians would prefer the ViTAL solution but we wanted them to decide for themselves, so we brought in the other providers. They seemed to lag behind and the majority of physicians preferred the ViTAL solution, hands down."

Atlanta Medical Center

ViTAL Enterprise Case Study

Solution

AMC selected the ViTAL enterprise solution with Vitrea® and ViTALConnect® software, which seamlessly integrates with its McKesson PACS (picture archiving and communications system). Now, physicians can access an integrated PACS and ViTAL enabled station within 100 feet of almost any patient care area in the 2-city block facility.

Working closely with AMC's Information Services, the infrastructure has been provided appropriate bandwidth for the hospital's busy trauma center and can easily support the number of simultaneous users. It also offers redundancy, which gave AMC confidence that no patient data or loss of efficiency was at risk.

Result

It was easy for AMC's PACS team to educate its physicians on the system, which resulted in quick results. Deployment on ViTALConnect was live in one day with 95% availability by noon the next day. AMC rolled out the comprehensive PACS and imaging solution at the same time to accommodate the need for connection to each imaging modality, to provide unlimited access to ViTAL solutions and to have access deployed all over the enterprise. Implementation of the integrated solution went smoothly and within three months of going live AMC cut film use by approximately 90%.

Everyone is using PACS, but how many users get the most out of it?

"The most effective tools are the ones that physicians actually use," said Gilbert. "I've seen a lot of institutions purchase expensive solutions that are difficult to implement and even harder to use. Everything AMC has purchased with PACS, the physicians use. In fact, they want more."

With virtually anywhere access the AMC trauma staff is able to scan a patient and acquire the information, send it to PACS, retrieve and analyze the study a minimum of 60 seconds faster than previous methods. Combine the speed with advanced image rendering and the net result is a 5-10 minute savings with emergency trauma cases.

Future

"I see physicians including cardiologists, surgeons and radiologists using the enterprise solution and Web-based imaging to read, distribute and communicate patient studies," commented Gilbert. "As a leading trauma center in the hub of a major metropolitan area, we have the capability to offer more than what other hospitals routinely provide and I believe partnering with solutions like ViTAL, we'll be able to try things that no one has done before in the medical imaging field."



Vital Images, Inc.

5850 Opus Parkway, Suite 300
Minnetonka, MN 55343 USA

www.vitalimages.com

M-5200A

952.487.9500
952.487.9510 [Fax]

