

CASE STUDY: TENNESSEE ORTHOPAEDIC ALLIANCE

OVERVIEW

- Orthopaedic Practice in Middle TN
- 53 physicians in 18 locations
- 150,000 studies annually

CHALLENGES

- Onsite PACS required large capital upgrade investment
- CD imports required a FTE
- Attestation for MU2

SOLUTION

- No capital investment needed to update PACS
- ProtonXpress CD burning tool
- Utilize MU2 image link

RESULTS

- Decreased PACS costs
- Repurposed FTE
- Successfully attested for MU2

“ProtonPACS allows us to focus on our core business of providing the best orthopaedic care to our patients.”

ProtonPACS for its functionality, low cost of implementation, ProtonXpress tool for CD importing, and its interfacing ability for MU2 attestation.

“The total cost of ownership of the previous PACS was significantly higher than the ProtonPACS solution. ProtonPACS was not only able to save us thousands of dollars in hardware costs, but also allowed TOA to advance their technology,” stated Poland.

RESULTS

TOA’s success has in part been driven by its philosophy of focusing its efforts directly on patient care. In light of this strategy, ProtonPACS was the perfect solution. Today, TOA has successfully been running with ProtonPACS for more than 2 years. They were able to repurpose a FTE due to the efficiencies gained with the ProtonPACS system and to successfully attest for Meaningful Use Stage 2. Not only did they avoid costly implementation and hardware charges, they also saved money by not having to pay for ongoing IT staff and maintenance services for the PACS.

OVERVIEW

As the largest orthopaedic practice in Tennessee, Tennessee Orthopaedic Alliance (TOA) has been serving area residents for over 90 years. The physicians of TOA concentrate on the diagnosis and treatment of disorders and injuries of the musculoskeletal system with the goal of restoring each individual to an active and functional life. With 18 locations and 53 physicians, TOA performs approximately 150,000 imaging studies per year.

CHALLENGES

In the traditional PACS model, PACS software is installed on a server located in the practice’s office and on the group’s computers. This type of architecture requires the practice to purchase the hardware, software and user licenses, resulting in a large upfront capital expense. With a legacy traditional PACS onsite and nearing the end of their contract, TOA was facing a six figure onsite hardware replacement, prompting them to look for alternative options.

In TOA’s continuing effort to attain the best technology to improve patient care, the practice also looked forward to attesting for Meaningful Use Stage 2. As is typical with a traditional PACS, they were facing significant project costs to integrate with their new Nextgen EMR. Furthermore, their CD import process was time consuming and required a full time employee to manage, adding to the total PACS expense.

Gary Poland, TOA’s MRI Director, knew that the right solution would need to provide the perfect balance of cost versus benefit. “Updating technology only makes sense if by doing so we are able to improve patient care,” said Poland.

SOLUTION

As exploration into new PACS technologies deepened, TOA kept returning to