CASE STUDY

TeraMedica's Vendor Neutral Archive Delivers Advanced Technology to Renown Health

Enhances Hospital's Reputation as an IT Leader

Renown Health, located in the high profile gaming town of Reno, NV, is hardly a facility to gamble on your health.

Northern Nevada's largest integrated health network and a nationally recognized healthcare leader, Renown comprises four major hospitals, northern Nevada's only NACHRI-affiliated children's hospital and numerous regional facilities. It is the region's only accredited trauma center and serves 17 counties, including northern Nevada, Lake Tahoe and northeast California.

Recognized among The Top 100 Integrated Health Networks from 2007 to 2012, Renown maintains a strong commitment to leading edge technology. Recently, the hospital mounted a major initiative to upgrade its legacy IT infrastructure supporting medical imaging. Not surprisingly, when it realized the potential value of newly emerging vendor neutral archive (VNA) technology, the forward-thinking facility expanded to project far beyond its initial imaging goals.

> " Our main goals were to create an enterprise image storage platform and a vendor neutral location for our imaging."
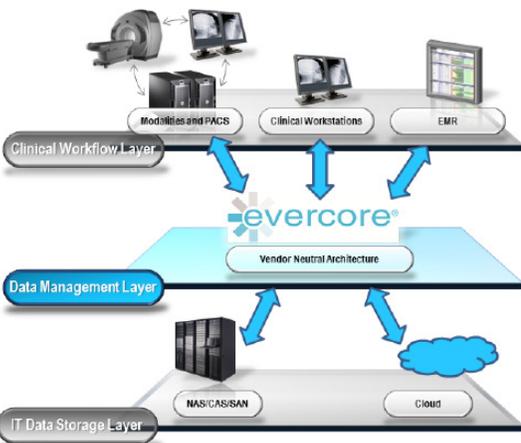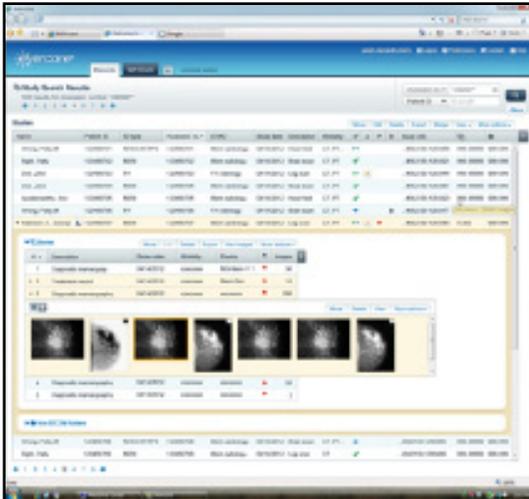>
> - Renown Health IT Staff

DICOM Archiving

Prior to the upgrade, Renown relied on a Siemens PACS for radiology image management, complemented by a Fuji Synapse CardioPACS for cardiology – each with its own discrete archive. Initially, a major goal of the project had been to consolidate both radiology and cardiology images under the Fuji system and integrate storage for both specialties to cut costs and enhance scalability. Renown also wanted to provide access to these images across all its medical facilities and eventually to referring physicians, wherever located.

Non-DICOM Image Archiving

After the initial implementation, the hospital also hoped to support archiving of its non-DICOM oncology data from an Elekta Mosaic system and to share this information with referring physicians and others involved in patient treatment. Further, it hoped to display this and other data in a unified patient-centric record.

> "The implementation of TeraMedica itself was very simple – especially compared to our PACS. We have nothing but good things to say about the process."
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> – Renown Health IT Staff

Image viewing through Univision is not intended to be used for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.

After surveying the marketplace, Renown found that a strategy of standardizing and integrating patient information at the archival level through a vendor neutral archive (VNA) could provide an efficiently and cost-effectively answer to its needs. This technology would also keep the forward-thinking hospital poised for the future.

TeraMedica Evercore Provides an Answer

TeraMedica's Evercore proved to be the VNA that truly delivered on the technology's full range of benefits to help the hospital accomplish its goals. Moreover, it discovered that the company's lightweight Univision image viewer*, compatible with a full range of data formats, would integrate easily with the Epic EMR the hospital planned to install shortly.

Renown chose to implement this innovative technology in stages. Throughout the project, the hospital was committed to maintaining image accessibility and patient care with no interruption in service, making the installation particularly challenging. To accomplish this, stringent project milestones were established. The precisely-scheduled implementation proceeded smoothly as major changes to the IT system took shape behind the scenes.

Phase One and Two

Phase One of the installation focused on migrating radiology and cardiology images to the VNA and connecting it to the PACS. All DICOM archives have now been consolidated, saving significant management time and expense, and access has been enhanced.

In Phase Two, non-DICOM oncology images were stored in the VNA. The TeraMedica Univision viewer was also integrated into an enterprise-wide EMR. By doing so, all authorized physicians throughout Renown Health can now access VNA files.

Renown believes this greater information access to care givers will result in enhanced physician collaboration as well as better patient conferences and education. The consolidated VNA archive has also lowered storage hardware and data management costs.

The Future

In the future, Renown hopes to archive dermatology, ophthalmology and other non-DICOM images. Wherever Renown Health's vision takes it, the hospital is secure in the knowledge that TeraMedica's versatile, adaptable VNA will keep it poised to reach its goals, with nothing ever left to chance.