

Fall 2011

GLARIN 2011 Views and News



AT THE INTERSECTION OF RADIOLOGY AND THE EHR.

Implications for Radiology

Among the most important direct benefits of the integration of radiology into the EHR (Electronic Health Record) is the ability to use direct migration of radiology studies and reports. Reports have been readily available for years but the ability to embed actual studies (including key images) is valuable to the physician and patient. This will be particularly beneficial in specialties such as oncology, where physicians' access to all medical imaging studies and reports is essential.

Areas that radiologists need to keep in mind include studies requiring further evaluation, notification of critical results, reporting of unexpected findings, and the use of automated systems to interface with screening programs, such as initiatives for breast cancer detection.

The responsibilities of the radiologist (and the institution where the study was performed) include the observation of relevant findings and the making of recommendations for follow up care. Greater system integration enhances the tools, inherent in notifications systems, which can inform all patients of the results of their procedures. From a risk management perspective, this can document poor or noncompliant behavior, especially when recommendations for future studies are ignored.

Other areas of risk that can be mitigated using electronic documentation include informed consent (a cumbersome and time consuming process) for interventional radiology procedures,

SCHOLARSHIP

Glarin Members are eligible for a scholarship for the cost of registration to the 2012 National Symposium in San Francisco. Applications can found at www.glarin.org. Completed forms should be forwarded to executive@glarin.org. The deadline for these forms is November 14th. Applicants should be current members of ARIN, AVIR, SIR or GLARIN.

ELECTIONS

Open positions are available for the 2012 term. Please visit glarin.org for a list of open positions. Nomination forms can be found at www.glarin.org. The nomination process will begin in mid October. Please forward nominations to executive@glarin.org

WEBINAR SERIES

Our next webinar will look at Research in Radiology and will be held on September 27th. More info at www.glarin.org

Past Programs have included:

- Kyphoplasty.
- MRguided focused ultrasound ablation
- IVC Filters
- Neurointerventions

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(INTERSECTION CONTINUED)

particularly in the event of a complication. In many instances, access to key information might have been lacking. For example, knowledge (or its absence) can represent potential risk management issues in the areas of allergic reactions, reactions to contrast media, renal function studies, and glomerular filtration rates. Documenting risks, benefits, and potential adverse outcomes is a critical step in the risk management process.

A tight interface between the PACS (Picture Archiving and Communication System) and the EMR (Electronic Medical Record) will provide many indirect additional benefits, including access to more meaningful information on patients (including patient history, current medial status and imaging results from prior studies performed at outside institutions).

Communication between the RIS (Radiology Information System) and the EHR also has the potential to enhance revenue opportunities and improve collections. Some analysts estimate the costs of lost revenue and revenue recovery efforts as 3% to 5% of annual collections. Electronic records when closely integrated with the PACS and the EMR, provide greater accuracy and less uncertainty for diagnostic and interventional radiology.

Access either to a transcribed report or to a final report generated using voice recognition software facilitates the submission of complete records necessary for payment through third party carriers.

For the EHR and the EMR, penetration into the marketplace is likely to accelerate as companies vie for market increased by almost \$20 billion in government funding to support this initiative. The benefits to all stakeholders in health care could also include an as yet unproven impact on professional liability claims.

Although the logic supporting the use of electronic records to enhance the quality of care is convincing, today's limited use of EMR and HER systems in most medical specialties limits cause and effect analysis. The emphasis on improving quality of care and on enhancing medial efficiency is a key element of the ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) incentives for implementing electronic records. Based on its experience in PACS implementation, radiology is well prepared to provide leadership and guidance.

WEBSITE NEWS

Have you checked out www.glarin.org lately? Photos are up from the conference held in May. Also, check under Links for Free CEU's opportunities; an excellent course on Capnography was added.

www.glarin.org

DID YOU KNOW??

That GLARIN is currently composing a chapter information packet to be distributed to potential members.

That GLARIN Leadership was invited to conduct a four hour workshop for Chapter Development at the next National ARIN meeting in San Francisco, CA

