Onboard Faster and Easier with **Interoperability**
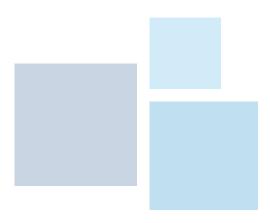
How interoperability allows imaging centers to quickly and easily onboard new physician practices

iNTERFACEWARE

Onboard Faster and Easier with **Interoperability**

Within the past five years, patients, employers, health insurers, and government institutions have focused on the importance of detection, prevention, and personalized care. Diagnostic imaging continues to provide value to physicians as a way to improve health and reduce the overall cost of healthcare through early detection, prevention, and treatment. Research and development in genomics and advancements in medical technology have increased the demand for personalized medicine, which relies on diagnostic imaging.

An increase in demand for imaging services has naturally increased the pressure to exchange data between RIS, PACS, and billing systems with referring physicians. An essential element to ensuring ongoing profitability and competitive advantage for imaging practices is being able to rapidly and seamlessly onboard new physician practices through interoperability.

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The Role of Interoperability

Leveraging an integrated environment is a strategic differentiator that is being taken advantage of by leaders in the imaging industry. Radiology practices that have realized the benefits of an integrated environment can process patient information faster, and with fewer complications, than practices that have maintained a traditional, manual, information-sharing strategy. With pressure on the healthcare system to provide more imaging services, interoperability can make the onboarding process pain-free through **seamless connectivity**, **flexibility**, **rapid implementation**, and **transparency**.

Seamless Connectivity

In addition to offering the latest in imaging technologies, imaging centers need to have an integration solution that can handle multiple data formats and connect to any system. This allows imaging practices to support physician systems that use traditional HL7 order and result messages sent over TCP/IP file transfer, or EMR systems, such as Athenahealth, that offer web service and API integrations. Interoperability also allows imaging practices to connect to systems such as vendor-neutral archives (VNA), voice recognition (VR), and intelligent workflow systems that are not always built-in to EMR, RIS or PACS systems.

The various systems mentioned are essential in making an imaging center's workflow more efficient, from order entry and scheduling to reporting and diagnosis. Interoperability between these systems improves turnaround time, reduces transcription costs for the practice, and improves the access and integrity of patient data. If turnaround time and operating costs are lower, this translates into imaging practices being able to take on more physician practices.

Flexibility

A flexible interoperability solution allows for customization, making onboarding easier for an imaging center and its clients. The ability to customize an integration platform allows imaging centers to adapt and support any client workflow. This will allow an imaging practice to stand out amongst competitors, as referrers will not have to spend time and resources modifying their current workflows. Regardless of whether a physician practice uses legacy systems, a modern integration engine will ensure imaging centers never face connectivity or data exchange challenges when onboarding new physicians.

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Rapid Implementation

With an increase in demand for imaging services, it is critical for imaging practices to onboard new clients as quickly as possible without costly interfacing fees. Interoperability allows for a practice to create and manage interfaces quickly and easily with minimal staffing and hardware resources. With a predictable and consistent approach, imaging practices can spend less time on integrations, and more time focused on their core business.

Transparency

Interoperability gives imaging practices the ability to enhance communication between care facilities. One way this can be done is through sending physicians incremental updates and visibility into the status of a patient order. In addition, many physician practices can use interoperability to operate patient portals, where they make imaging reports accessible to their patients. Creating this level of transparency and providing timely updates can ultimately enhance an imaging practice's competitive advantage, which can lead to the onboarding of more physician practices.

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