

The Endless Possibilities Created by a Cross-Enterprise Workflow



Colorado's Advanced Medical Imaging Consultants use IntelOne to increase efficiency, improve quality and grow

About Advanced Medical Imaging Consultants

Located in Fort Collins, Colorado, Advanced Medical Imaging Consultants (AMIC) is the exclusive medical imaging provider for leading area hospitals across Northern Colorado, Southern Wyoming, and Southwest Nebraska. Founded as a two-physician practice in 1976, AMIC is today made up of more than 41 board-certified, subspecialty-trained radiologists who read close to 600,000 studies per year, serving 24 customers and over 3,500 referring physicians.

Using IntelOne to enable a Cross-Enterprise Workflow

In serving a number of hospitals and imaging centers in Colorado and its surrounding states, AMIC's radiologists can be found reading at one of several locations on any given day. This could be an AMIC facility, a customer location, or occasionally providing remote reads from home.

Given that each rotation has responsibilities to all of AMIC's customers, their forward-thinking IT team began exploring the possibility of implementing a cross-enterprise workflow. This would allow their team of radiologists to leverage a single user interface with unified access to the patient images and information stored in all of their customers' legacy systems, regardless of where they were located.

As AMIC began to learn more about the capabilities of IntelOne®, it seemed like the perfect fit. By deploying the solution, AMIC would be provided the true cross-enterprise workflow they desired, which would enable dramatic efficiency gains and help lead to a substantial increase in reading volume.

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Dr. Chris Fleener
President and Radiologist
Advanced Medical Imaging Consultants

A Seamless Deployment

With a strong understanding of IntelOne's capabilities, the decision was made to deploy the solution and integrate their customers' systems. For AMIC, the straightforward process was impressive. According to their CIO Lawrence Long, within 12 hours of implementation, the system was up and running, and making an impact on radiologists' efficiency.

"To be honest with you, I thought it was maybe too good to be true with IntelOne as far as its capability to integrate other systems," says Long. "But it wasn't oversold - I remember driving home the first night after we went live with a very large health system and thinking to myself, 'It really works!'"

Immediate Efficiency Gains

With radiologists now able to read from a single IntelOne workstation, as opposed to an array of legacy systems, the efficiency gains quickly became apparent.

"From day one, there was an immediate improvement," says Dr. Andrew Mills, a musculoskeletal radiologist with AMIC. "As we've gotten more comfortable with the system, we're seeing it much more. It's much more fluid for our group."

According to Dr. Chris Fleener, a radiologist with AMIC and the group's current president, the switch to IntelOne has provided the biggest efficiency gains in his ten years with the organization.

"IntelOne saves me an hour per day," says Dr. Fleener. "It also gets rid of the feeling that 20 percent of my day is spent bouncing between IT systems and not being a radiologist."

Improved Productivity Goes Hand-in-Hand with Improved Quality

In addition to allowing radiologists to read more studies per hour, the efficiency gains provided by IntelOne have helped radiologists improve the quality of their work as well. For Dr. Fleener, the ability to work from a single workstation itself is highly beneficial, stating that "any time we're not interrupted and don't have to move from one system to another, we're less likely to miss things."

AMIC's radiologists have also greatly benefited from the Intelera Master Patient Index (MPI) built into their IntelOne deployment. The MPI indexes the patient information from all of the disparate PACS that IntelOne connects with, and stores it in a database. When a radiologist opens a new case, a search of the database is automatically conducted and provides the option to view images and information that the system has determined to be relevant.

"Having that ability to see priors across facilities, studies that you would normally not know about, is game changing," says Long. "It provides great opportunities that not many practices or systems have to provide encompassing patient care and help remove duplicate imaging."

A Cross-Enterprise Workflow Leads to Business Growth

AMIC's efficiency gains have also played a key role in their growth, with the enterprise reading an additional 200,000 studies per year since deploying IntelOne.

"If we didn't have Intelera, I'm not sure that we would have taken on the new business that we have over the last two years," says Long. "It just would have been too cumbersome. It would have been too expensive to do as far as hiring additional radiologists."

For Dr. Fleener, IntelOne's cross-enterprise workflow and MPI have helped them achieve their short-term goals. Moving forward, he feels business prosperity will be based on clearly demonstrating the solution's value – from what it allows AMIC to accomplish as a group to the impact it has on both customers and their patients.

"The ability to consolidate all the places we cover into one virtual site is really huge – definitely big for us in our daily workflow," says Dr. Fleener. "Now the push from our group is to show the referring docs and the patients that having the ability to consolidate all of these sites onto one system has the real ability to reduce people's anxiety, radiation, money, wasted time, and more."

With the right team and technology in place, AMIC's future is undoubtedly bright.

About Intelera Medical Systems

Intelera is a recognized leader in medical imaging PACS and workflow solutions. IntelPACS[®] relies on a scalable, flexible, and fault-tolerant architecture. Intelera solutions, like IntelOne[®], have a strong reputation for reliability and performance in complex, multi-site environments with challenging workflows.