

SYNAPSE USER'S VOICE

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Healthcare IT

Fujifilm UK Initiate “Operation Workstation” during the Pandemic



Introduction

The coronavirus pandemic started to escalate rapidly in the UK in early March, affecting all areas of the country and eventually forcing a nationwide lockdown. As more patients were admitted to hospitals with the virus, the volume of chest x-rays used to help classify and determine treatment plans for COVID-19 patients increased. This put additional strain on radiologists at a time when their work in hospitals put them at high risk of catching the virus themselves.

To support the National Health Service and their customers, the UK Medical Systems business has undertaken a project to build dozens of home reporting workstations. The Medical Informatics team and supporting supply chain staff have been working flat out over a number weeks to deliver this project, which will mean radiologists can report from the safety of their own homes.

Starting back in March, “Operation Workstation” has involved the team unboxing monitors and computers, which they then build and configure as Home Reporting workstations, and then re-box before shipping out to the radiologists. It’s been quite a production line!

The Fujifilm Home Reporting solution allows radiologists to work flexibly from home with the same hardware, software and imaging quality as they are used to in the hospital, and with the same range of advanced reporting tools. This provides the Health Boards and Trusts with the ability to increase core reporting capacity, and contributes significantly to meeting the increased reporting demands during the COVID-19 pandemic, where chest imaging is placing a huge pressure on radiology services.

The SYNAPSE® platform enables radiologists to replicate their hospital reporting environment at home, including user profile, settings and preferences. The system supports both PACS and RIS driven reporting workflow, using voice recognition, and includes the full range of image manipulation tools including 3D image rendering. Users are presented with the same graphical user interface that they see in the hospital, and unique SYNAPSE® compression technology maintains functionality over

restricted bandwidths and networks.

Dr. Sally Bolt, Consultant Radiologist at Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, Wales said: “Once the scale of the Coronavirus pandemic became clear, as a health board we very quickly focused on implementing the most effective ways of working as clinical radiologists. As a clinical body, we identified that we needed to make changes to how we worked.

Prior to COVID-19, most of the team were based onsite at one of our three acute hospitals. We needed to change this and introduce home working for the majority. To enable this, we would need to utilise Fujifilm’s home reporting solution, available to only a small number of the team prior to the pandemic. Since the workstations have been deployed, most radiologists within our health board are now set up to work from home, meaning we can support our clinical colleagues by delivering a hot reporting chest x-ray service 7 days a week.”