

Picture Archive Communication System

More and more, physicians are demanding faster, more convenient availability of medical imaging data in order to better care for their patients. Responding to these demands requires radiology departments to make changes to the traditional x-ray film and report delivery process.

A Picture archiving and communication system (PACS) is an elaborate network of computers that manage and deliver images and information. A PACS collects images from various types of radiology equipment (e.g. CT, MRI, Ultrasound, etc.) and integrates them with health care organization information systems allowing for rapid transfer of patient data. A PACS also archives (stores) images in a secure environment, making them quickly (electronically) accessible by authorized users when needed.

PACS technology provides a solution that will improve the management and distribution of image information. Combined with Internet technology, PACS has the ability to deliver timely and efficient access to images, interpretations and related data over a secure wide area network to the referring physician community.

What Exactly is a PACS?

- P-** Picture viewing at specialized computer workstations
- A-** Archiving (storing) on short and/or long-term storage devices
- C-** Communications using secure local or wide area networks
- S-** Systems that include interfaces to healthcare facility information systems, offering one integrated system to the user.