

Gwinnett Medical Center, Georgia, US

Quality and simplicity go hand-in-hand with MediCal QAWeb



“We knew we wanted to procure the best products, best vendors and best support in a new PACS system. With Barco, we achieved all three.”

Cathy Taylor, Manager of the Clinical Applications Team, Gwinnett Medical Center

Gwinnett Medical Center stands tall among the nation's healthcare institutions, achieving local, state and national accolades for its efforts to reinvent itself in every facet to improve the delivery of healthcare to patients. Gwinnett Breast Center recently received a full, three-year accreditation by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), thanks in no small part to its state-of-the-art mammography facilities outfitted with Barco imaging displays. These displays, as are all medical grade displays across Gwinnett's healthcare system, are connected to Barco's MediCal QAWeb software, enabling multiple stakeholders to better manage quality assurance, procurement planning, and budgeting processes to maximize their display network investment.

BARCO

Visibly yours

The best quality, best vendors, and best support

When Gwinnett embarked upon a technology refresh to implement a full-fledged, high-quality PACS system, they had several objectives. "We knew we wanted the best products, best vendors and best support. With Barco, we achieved all three," explained Cathy Taylor, Manager of the Clinical Applications Team at Gwinnett. The hospital purchased 100 Barco monitors for use throughout multiple facilities, with 16 5MPs and 16 3MPs dedicated to its mammography centers, and the remainder located in diagnostic and clinical review stations.

Doing more, with less

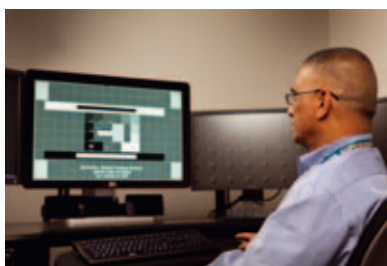
The health system also installed Barco's MediCal QAWeb software to automate its time-consuming, manual quality assurance process. Before MediCal QAWeb, a technician needed to test every workstation and run labor-intensive calculations to assess operation and performance. The ability to centralize virtually all QA activities for every medical grade display via an easy-to-use, web-based software almost seemed too good to be true. "Like many hospitals, we've experienced cutbacks throughout our organization, but are still tasked with managing a significant workload to ensure a high level of patient care," continued Taylor. "MediCal QAWeb enables us to sustain productivity levels despite fewer staff, while increasing operational efficiency across the hospital."

Lance Cook, PACS Administrator for Gwinnett, concurs, "The software has really freed up manpower, eliminating the need for us to interact with each unit. It runs all the regular compliance tests, and can even launch a SMTP pattern remotely from the PACS Administrator's workstation when needed. Of course, we still do Visual SMTP tests for all of our mammography displays. But, for the most part, we let the machines do the work now." The software also automatically e-mails reports to a supervisor on display performance and attributes. "The system will actually send me an e-mail to alert me of an issue before the radiologist is even aware of it," continued Cook.

With more than 25 radiologists spread across six sites up to eight miles apart, of performing QA on hundreds of monitors, before MediCal QAWeb, was a particularly daunting task for Hardy Singh, Senior



Systems Analyst. "I used to do QA on the mammography stations on the weekends to avoid interrupting radiologists during prime working hours, traveling from clinic to clinic to inspect the displays. Thanks to MediCal QAWeb, I have my Saturdays back," commented Singh. Now, Singh relies on MediCal QAWeb to automatically calibrate nearly 100 monitors as well as perform regular system diagnostics and automatic adjustments.



Wiser purchasing decisions

Gwinnett also leverages the power of MediCal QAWeb to assist in budget planning and procurement. Taylor continues: "I can generate a number of reports from MediCal QAWeb to aid in forecasting display end-of-life. This enables me to budget for replacement on a case-by-case basis instead of having to place a large order all at once. This feature really saves money, and helps to justify costs. It's also a huge timesaver, since I don't have to physically evaluate each monitor to determine its age, condition, and other factors. Awhile back, when I needed to create a five-year projection for display procurement planning, MediCal QAWeb made it fast and easy."

Consistent image quality, reduced eye strain

MediCal QAWeb's ability to maintain consistently high image quality can be measured in greater radiologist satisfaction, especially when used with Barco's Corionis Fusion 6MP DL displays. Dr. Val Phillips, Managing Partner of North Metropolitan Radiology Associates, serving Gwinnett Medical Center, comments: "The 6MP monitor is a winner! Whether I'm viewing ultrasounds, nuclear studies, fused images, even regular PACS images - it's very clear and the color really highlights the data. From a reading point of view, I knew we'd benefit from image enhancement with the color monitors, but the real surprise is reduced eye strain. It's a significant advantage when you consider that many of us are reading ten or more hours a day...it makes a big difference!"

Maximizing ROI

"Gwinnett Medical Center is a perfect example of how to utilize MediCal QAWeb to the fullest extent to positively impact the healthcare setting. In these days of continued budget reductions, it allows an institution to achieve higher productivity with less cost - and the results are often more accurate and reliable than those produced previously using manual processes," said Paul Carothers, Barco's Business Development Representative for the Southeast Region.