IHE Implementation Case Study

mcl
medisch centrum leeuwarden
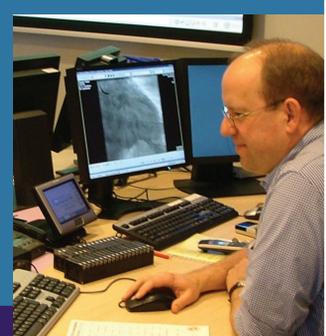
Creating a Regional Cardiology Information Network in Friesland

BACKGROUND:

Cardiologists in the Friesland region of the Netherlands typically refer their patients with an indication for percutaneous coronary intervention or open-heart surgery to the Medical Centre Leeuwarden (MCL). With 990 beds and 2,900 employees, MCL is the leading hospital for advanced clinical practice in Friesland. Patient records and images were exchanged by traditional methods, such as on compact discs sent by courier, or as attachments to emails, or by fax. In order to improve the quality and speed of these referrals, the MCL sought to offer the referring cardiologist the possibility to send clinical information digitally to the MCL, without the need for drastic changes in their work methods or the purchase of new equipment.

CHALLENGE:

Patient identification presented a significant challenge to implementation.
- Connecting legacy cardiology PACS systems
- Resolving Patient Identification across multiple sites
- Exchange of diagnostic quality images
- Reducing referral time from (on average) 3 to less than a day

RESULTS:

Physicians treating patients suffering from cardiac disease in the Friesland region of the Netherlands can rapidly access a full record of the patient's history and consult in real time with specialists at regional medical centers to determine the best treatment. The cardiology network provides the physician with a more complete view of the patient as it includes clinical information, treatment histories and diagnostic-quality images.

BENEFITS:

The Friesland Regional Cardiology Network provides the physician with a more complete view of the patient
- Exchange of Cardiology information between 5 hospitals
- Improved quality of patient care by reducing referral time
- Connecting legacy Cardiology and Radiology PACS

IHE PROFILES IMPLEMENTED:

Cross-enterprise Document Sharing (XDS), XDS for Imaging (XDS-I), Patient Identifier Cross-reference (PIX)/Patient Demographic Query (PDQ) and Cross-enterprise User Authentication (XUA)