South Jersey Radiology Associates invests in PowerScribe 360 and mPower Clinical Analytics to power its future of care.

Challenge
– Required to mine data from reports manually
– High level of variability among reporting
– Inefficient workflows among radiologists and facilities
– Inability to thoroughly track throughput of patient care

Solution
– PowerScribe® 360 and mPower™ Clinical Analytics

Results
– Eliminated manual data mining
– Successfully implemented guidelines to reduce variability of reporting
– Achieved a 10% increase in workflow efficiencies
– Attained ability to track throughput of patient care

Summary

For nearly 80 years, South Jersey Radiology Associates (SJRA) has provided a multitude of imaging services to patients throughout the south Jersey and Philadelphia regions. Today, the organization includes 12 facilities and employs more than 50 radiologists whose daily mission is to deliver the highest quality of care possible to their patients. But that's not all. Since 2011, SJRA has been able to extend its value even further by not only providing superior care, but also efficiently tracking and measuring its top-of-the-line service.

SJRA
SOUTH JERSEY
RADIOLOGY
Innovative imaging
Radiology reimagined

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Dr. William Muhr
Diagnostic Radiologist at South Jersey Radiology Associates

An early adopter

Up until five years ago, SJRA was forced to complete any data mining and analytics research solely by manpower—a process that was inefficient and ultimately not feasible for the large volume of data that SJRA's facilities received. Seeing this manual process as a roadblock to its organizational growth, SJRA became one of the first non-academic institutions to implement Nuance PowerScribe 360 and mPower Clinical Analytics in 2011.

"When we were in the process of implementing mPower Clinical Analytics, we were really looking for one solution that could provide us with the ability to access analytics and mine large amounts of data accurately and efficiently," said Dr. William Muhr, diagnostic radiologist at SJRA. "mPower Clinical Analytics was the only solution on the market that offered all the functionality we needed in a complete package. Unlike others, it didn't require us to piece together a custom solution. We liked that, saw its potential and have been using it ever since."

Increased efficiency and guaranteed consistency

Due to the low learning curve required to use mPower Clinical Analytics, SJRA and its radiologists were able to instantly eliminate the need for manual data mining while also using the technology to reduce the variability of reports. For example, today SJRA utilizes mPower Clinical Analytics to help streamline reports for thyroid nodule findings on chest CTs, amongst other uses.

"When radiologists read CT scans of the chest and report an incidental finding of a thyroid nodule, there is some variability in how they can handle the finding," Dr. Muhr explained. "With mPower Clinical Analytics, instead of manually searching through all chest CTs, our radiologists can now easily access all chest CTs that

mention 'thyroid nodule.' The physicians can then run data analytics around the reports and guarantee they are consistently following guidelines in every report for all patients."

Further, mPower Clinical Analytics's data analytics is helping SJRA track its throughput of patient care. "For instance, if I recommend that a patient comes back in six months for a follow-up, I want to make sure that patient really does return," said Dr. Muhr. "I can now use mPower Clinical Analytics to find that patient in the system. If they haven't returned, I can reach out and schedule an appointment, ensuring they are receiving the necessary care."

Investing in the future

Those are not the only benefits that mPower Clinical Analytics provided SJRA. In fact, one of the biggest values SJRA receives today is the ability to obtain accurate, updated information on the productivity of individual radiologists across its 12 locations. In return, the data shows which radiologists and facilities are overloaded, and allows them to reallocate the work accordingly—greatly improving overall workflow. But most importantly, SJRA's top priority will always be its patients —which is why it sees the value of investing in healthcare technology to supports its radiologists. With mPower Clinical Analytics, SJRA's radiologists can easily see how they are performing and where they can improve on a constant basis.

Moving forward, SJRA plans to continue to maximize the benefits of mPower Clinical Analytics and encourages others to do the same. "With value-driven payment models driving the future of healthcare, facilities are going to have to prove their value and demonstrate that they are following guidelines," said Dr. Muhr. "And without a solution like mPower Clinical Analytics, that is going to be difficult to do."

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