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BUILDING CARDIOLOGY CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE



Tanner Medical Center

Integrating Images and Data at the Point of Care Enhances Productivity at Tanner Health System

Highlights

Quality Care Across a Growing Service Line. The cardiovascular service lines at Tanner Health System have long been committed to providing top-quality care in a wide range of specialties. As their services have grown, so has the need for sophisticated image and data management tools.

Integration of Images, Data. Given high patient volumes, the goal of Cardiac Services at Tanner is to provide their doctors with comprehensive patient data at the point of care. In an effort to integrate clinical information and streamline workflows, Cardiovascular Services implemented LUMEDX's CardioPACS™ multi-modality imaging and CardioDoc™ physician structured reporting solutions.

Enhanced Productivity. Images are immediately available for viewing, analysis and inclusion in the final report, improving efficiency and productivity.

For 60 years Tanner Health System has provided advanced, comprehensive medical care to the people of northwest Georgia. Over the past decade Tanner's cardiac and vascular service lines have grown substantially, with a steady increase in catheterizations, peripheral vascular and endovascular procedures.

“Implementing this [cardiovascular information system] goes hand-in-hand with wanting to be the healthcare leader in our community. We want to be one of the leaders in hospital IT; we're trying to go paperless; we have a fairly robust EMR. This system supports all of that.”

—Taylor Powers
VP, Heart & Vascular Services
Tanner Health System
Carrollton, GA

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Given the escalating number of procedures performed, Cardiac Services at Tanner Health wanted to provide their doctors with comprehensive patient data at the point of care. They determined that they needed a flexible, integrated system—one that united quality imaging with structured reporting and had as its foundation a powerful database. This solution would enable their physicians to deliver best-quality patient care, even in exceptionally busy labs.

The Goal: Streamline Time-Consuming Data and Image Management

In the past cardiac and vascular images were burned onto CDs. Accessing the CDs could be difficult as well as resource- and labor-intensive. “Some images were going to the Radiology PACS system, but the echo and cath labs were backing them up. We were storing the CDs in warehouses and we also had storage rooms onsite. It was sometimes hard to go find them, hard to pull them up when needed—time-consuming would be the operative word,” explains Heart and Vascular Services Vice President Taylor Powers.

To reduce wasted space, time and resources, in 2008 Tanner Health implemented LUMEDX CardioPACS multi-modality image management and CardioDoc physician structured reporting. “The staff used to be responsible for storing and retrieving the CDs—they don’t have to spend their time on that anymore. Now they make sure the study is complete and make sure it gets to the system,” says PACS Administrator Jeremy Koscielny. “No one has to go hunt down CDs when they could be doing something more important.”

Integrated, Accessible Images and Data for Best-Quality Care

Tanner Health understands that outcomes are improved when physicians and clinicians have immediate access to all clinical images and data at once: Echo images, procedural details, Cath images, medications, everything. This provides the physician with a comprehensive view of the patient and allows for fully informed, timely treatment decisions.

TANNER HEALTH SYSTEM ANNUAL CV VOLUMES

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Tanner Medical Center/Carrollton

Catheterizations

- 2041 Diagnostic
- 433 Coronary Interventions

Echocardiography

- 3280 Echos (general)
- 555 Treadmill and Pharmacological Ultrasounds
- 697 Doctor’s Office Echos
- 149 Transesophageal (TEE) Ultrasounds

Tanner Medical Center/Villa Rica

Cardiology Ultrasounds

- 1178 Echos
- 277 Treadmill and Pharmacological Ultrasounds

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“We have CardioPACS, CardioDoc, Apollo [clinical data repository] and interfaces, so now the image goes automatically into the report,” Jeremy says. “The clinician performs the exam and it’s on the system and ready for the physician to dictate that to CardioDoc right away.” Using CardioPACS and CardioDoc together helps Tanner physicians produce robust procedural reports more quickly, ultimately enhancing patient care.

Enhanced Productivity Across the Board

“Our productivity has been enhanced by not having to burn CDs, not having to go and find them, and so on. That saves us time. We’ve streamlined the report process in general,” says Taylor. “And specifically we’ve been able to streamline the stress and echo reports into one. We had two separate reports before but now the stress information is brought in with the echo, which again saves more time.”

Now that CardioPACS and CardioDoc are implemented and accelerating physician reporting, Tanner Health is building on its strengths and looking toward the future. Taylor notes, “Implementing this [cardiovascular information system] goes hand-in-hand with wanting to be the healthcare leader in our community. We want to be one of the leaders in hospital IT; we’re trying to go paperless; we have a fairly robust EMR. This system supports all of that.”

CARDIOPACS BENEFITS

- Access patient images in seconds; eliminate the delays of CDs and stand-alone image archives.
- Intuitive user interface makes viewing studies quick and easy; image enhancement tools support image analysis.
- Provide referring physicians with comprehensive patient reports, which integrate images, data, and text to quickly communicate critical information.
- Store multi-modality images in one place to reduce impact on technology resources.



LUMEDX SOLUTIONS AT TANNER HEALTH SYSTEM

- Apollo Advance Clinical Data Repository
- CardioPACS Multi-Modality Imaging
- CardioDoc Physician Structured Reporting
- Apollo Toolkit
- CardioDoc Toolkit
- CardioManager Performance Management
- CardioPACS Modality Work List
- ACC Registry Module