



Your current image storage and reporting solution (PACS) is outdated and does not meet your needs. Now what?

We've created a checklist of things to ask about yourself before you purchase a PACS system to identify a solution that meets your needs...

1. Your Image Storage Needs

- Do you want to maintain your own server or have the vendor manage storage for you?
 - If you maintain the server yourself, what kind of redundancy will you have? Is offsite backup of any kind included?
 - Will this vendor keep your data in multiple locations that are geographically disparate?
 - If this is a cloud offering, what security measures are employed at their data centers?
 - What imaging modalities do you want to be included in this solution?
 - Do you also want a solution that will handle any other diagnostic testing results? If so, list those devices.
 - Do you have an IT resource available to help you setup and manage a local solution?
-

2. Security/Privacy

- Is SSO a requirement for you? If so, does the vendor support SSO?
 - If the vendor is a cloud-based provider, what encryption is used?
 - Does the vendor have a QMS?
 - Does the vendor have an ISMS?
 - Is the number of images per series and the matrix size visible on the image?
 - Does the vendor have a disaster recovery plan?
 - Does the vendor conduct penetration testing?
 - Does the vendor have a business continuity plan?
 - What is the vendor's downtime record?
 - Is there a way to modify user roles and the permissions within those roles?
 - Is there an audit trail?
 - Are final reports truly digitally signed?
-

3. Image Viewing

- Are user licenses required or does the solution offer unlimited users?
- Does the solution support dual monitors and provide for quick comparison of previous exams?
- What imaging modalities are supported? (Ultrasound, nuclear, cath, angio, CT, MRI, etc?)
- Does the solution support viewing more than one image at a time?
- Can you adjust the brightness and contrast? Window and level?
- Does the viewer support: Pan, Zoom, Measurements and calculations, Inverting grey scale, CT Hounsfield units?
- Is patient information available while viewing all images?
- Is the number of images per series visible on the study?
- Can users view images on multiple platforms such as tablets and smartphones?

4. Interpretation

- Does the interpretation tool populate measurements from the modality?
 - Can DICOM tags influence workflow (i.e. can the data entered on the modality assist in routing my exams through the process)
 - If normal reports are available, do they meet accreditation guidelines?
 - Is there a mechanism for building macro statements?
 - Is there a mechanism for creating a 'favorite' report?
 - Does the tool include any diagrams? If so are they static or do they assist in interpretation?
 - Is all of the data within the tool able to be queried in reports that assist with other processes such as QA/QC, accreditation, management?
 - Is the full-featured interpretation tool available on a tablet as well as a PC?
 - Does the interpretation tool include the ability to add clinical notes that do not display on the report?
-

5. Interoperability

- Is the product vendor neutral?
 - Is modality worklist support available (MWL)?
 - Is an HL7 results interface available that includes the ability to send discrete data elements, link to images, images in .jpeg, encapsulated pdf and/or text based report (if all are desired)?
 - Can images be shared with patients or other not users?
-

6. Support and Training

- What are the support hours?
 - Can you call support or do you have to submit a help ticket first?
 - Is support available at an extra cost? Forever or for a limited time? What costs are associated with support?
 - What is the initial training provided?
 - Is ongoing training available (for new features or staff turnover)?
 - What costs are associated with user training?
 - Is a product manual available? Is it kept up to date?
 - Are there user videos available?
 - What other training resources are available?
-

7. Contract and Implementation

- What are the terms of the agreement?
- What if we aren't happy? How can we cancel?
- Can the vendor provide us with references?
- What will the implementation of the product look like?
- How long will it take?