

NHS trusts enhance imaging access as SWASH moves to a single Sectra PACS

Salisbury, Isle of Wight and South Hampshire hospitals consortium renews its picture archiving and communication system (PACS) contact with Sectra for eight years.

A consortium of trusts around the south coast of England has entered into a new agreement that will ease the flow of millions of crucial images across hospitals, helping healthcare professionals in the region to make informed diagnoses for patients.

The Salisbury, Wight and South Hampshire Domain Trusts, or SWASH consortium, uses imaging technology to manage 1.3 million patient exams each year as patients move across the geography.

The consortium has now renewed its contract which Sectra, which since 2013 had been providing hospitals in the SWASH consortium with four instances of its picture archiving and communication system (PACS) and an underpinning cross platform technology that has allowed the trusts to stream images with each other.

A new eight-year contract agreed at the beginning of 2020 will now see a single instance of the PACS delivered across all trusts, hosted in the cloud, meaning the removal of technical complexity previously required to support a single view of patient imaging across the trusts.

Mark Gardner, PACS manager at Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust, said: “We have broken down a lot of barriers over the last seven years by using Sectra’s software to allow us to view imaging across our trusts. And having a consistent system in place has proven useful for consultants and junior doctors moving across our trusts.

“Now we are taking this a step further by moving to a single instance of PACS across the entire SWASH consortium. This will remove a reliance on external network links, and improve performance further, overcoming any bandwidth limitations when our professionals are obtaining and interacting with large imaging files and the associated vast amounts of data needed to make important diagnoses.”

The development is expected to allow clinicians to view imaging at other sites at the same speed and efficiency as they would do imaging in their own hospital.

Dr Mark Griffiths, paediatric radiologist and clinical lead for the SWASH consortium, said: “I can already see a full patient history from any of the trusts involved – an achievement made possible during the past seven years. But our requirements are considerable to keep that running in an orderly fashion across multiple routers and a range of complex and varied infrastructure. The new contract will allow us to simplify our utilisation of the technology, and will mean that maintenance, upgrades, patching and even cyber security will now be much more easily managed.

“And we have a strong opportunity to improve our access for multi-disciplinary teams which often occur concurrently. This means that any historic challenges where bandwidth between trusts may be clogged at peak times will be overcome.”

Delivery of the new PACS is expected to allow the consortium to manage a further 450,000 patient exams a year – 1.75 million in total. Imaging will also continue to integrate into the trusts’ individual electronic patient records, supporting clinicians across a range of hospital environments.

Jane Rendall, managing director UK and Ireland at Sectra, said: “SWASH has achieved a tremendous amount working as a region during the past seven years so that patient imaging can securely flow to whichever hospital that patient visits. As regional NHS collaborations now rapidly

become the default procurement mechanism in the imaging space, they can learn a lot from pioneers at SWASH who continue to build on their strategic view led by clinical and diagnostic professionals and senior individuals including chief information officers. These are people determined to make the lives of clinical and technical professionals in the NHS easier, and to make the flow of imaging even more seamless.”

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Notes to editors

About SWASH

The SWASH PACS Consortium (Salisbury, Wight and South Hampshire Hospitals) formed in 2011 to procure a new PACS, RIS and the associated data centre hosting. Post procurement the services went live in 2013. The integrated medical supplier services provided under the contracts awarded enabled imaging to be shared between trusts in the consortium without the requirement of the Image Exchange Portal. SWASH has remained together as a consortium over the last six years with a strong governance structure. The trusts remain committed to working closely with suppliers, each other and external trusts to further develop image sharing in terms of seamless image sharing outside the consortium and also incorporating other types of images and reports.

About Sectra Imaging IT Solutions

With more than 30 years of innovation and approaching 2,000 installations worldwide, Sectra is a leading global provider of imaging IT solutions that support healthcare in achieving patient-centric care. Sectra offers an enterprise imaging solution comprising PACS for imaging-intense departments (radiology, pathology, cardiology, orthopedics), VNA, and share and collaborate solutions. Read more about Sectra and why Sectra PACS is “Best in KLAS” at <https://medical.sectra.com/>.