

## **Auto Exam Assignment vs. Manual Exam Selection: A Worklist Providing the Best of Both Worlds**

When deciding on the best workflow for a practice, groups often struggle with the question of how radiologists should know which exam to read next. Many approaches have been tried over the years by PACS and RIS vendors, including:

- Radiologists simply pick the next exam from a global worklist
- Radiology assistants validate and assign all exams manually
- An “assignment engine” completely automates the process of exam assignment
- Radiologists read from subspecialty worklists

Practices often consider many issues when looking for the best solution, including:

- How do we make sure exams are not “ignored”?
- How do we make sure radiologists are not spending time “cherry-picking”?
- How do we ensure we are making the most of our sub-specialty radiologists?
- How do we optimize turnaround time and load balance?
- What is the “fail-safe” for exams about to violate service-level agreements?

Clario’s zVision™ worklist includes a combination of techniques which can be tuned to your individual practice’s needs. zVision is the world’s most flexible radiology worklist, and includes:

- Combined or stacked worklists
- Auto-next mode
- Worklist assignment
- Automatic exam assignment
- Alerting
- Real-time tracking
- Radiology assistant workflow (global and specific exam types)
- Exam escalation

Perhaps more importantly, Clario’s team of workflow specialists will continue to work with you after our initial installation to refine, optimize and adapt your workflow to your changing needs. Change is the one challenge that all practices share.

### **Combined or Stacked Worklists**

zVision’s worklists are built using our search engine. This provides almost unlimited flexibility when building a worklist. Worklists can be very general (e.g., ‘all unread exams’) to very specific (‘all unread CT exams referred by Dr. Jones from X body parts or with Z keywords in the procedure name’).



zVision's unique drag-and-drop feature allows the display of multiple worklists, stacked or combined, in a single view, in a custom order. For example, worklists can be created for 'Stat exams', 'Unread CT' and 'Unread MR'. The stat exams will be displayed on top, with non-stat MR and CT will displayed below.

Combined worklists are a better way to drive workflow. Exams are put into meaningful categories and displayed in a hierarchy, generally with the more urgent exams appearing on top. Many practices will find they can more easily select exams from a worklist when it is displayed in this fashion. This allows them to retain the advantages of having radiologists inspect the worklist between exams.

### **Auto-Next Mode**

Practices that wish to have radiologists read through a worklist without returning to the worklist to select an exam may enable the Auto-Next mode. When in Auto-Next mode, the radiologist moves to the next exam in their combined or stacked worklist, but never returns to the listing of exams. This is the simplest way for practices to optimize efficiency, prioritize exams, and eliminate "cherry-picking".

### **Worklist Assignment**

Worklist assignment is used for practices which have sub-specialty worklists and specified radiologists covering each sub-specialty. Only the radiologist assigned to the worklist is able to read exams from the worklist. If sub-specialties are distinct, worklists can be established such that each exam resides on one worklist. If there is overlap in sub-specialties, exams can reside on multiple worklists for the next available radiologist.

### **Automatic Exam Assignment**

If a practice wants all or some exams to be assigned to a specific radiologist, zVision will perform that assignment when the exam moves to an "unread" status. This will prevent the exam from being read by a different radiologist. Typically, the assignment will be released after a specified time interval; e.g., if that radiologist logs out of zVision or their session becomes idle.

### **Alerting**

zVision is configurable to generate an alert if an exam sits unread for a specified interval of time. An unlimited collection of alerts can be created, based upon any meta-data describing the exam. A simple example would be an alert that generates an email and text message if a CT stat exam from a specific hospital emergency department sits in an "unread" status for more than 30 minutes.

### **Real-Time Tracking**

zVision provides two ways of tracking specific exams: through enterprise worklists or dashboard widgets. An enterprise worklist can be created that will show the number of unread exams of that type in parenthesis after the name. For example, an enterprise worklist titled "Stat Exams" can be created and shared with the entire practice. Every radiologist would see this worklist and the queue of unread exams at all time. A dashboard widget can be created for a specific user to monitor exams. For example, the emergency department can create a widget to show the status of their preliminary exams. A business manager or administrator can create a widget to monitor the number of exams that have been waiting for more than an hour.



## **Radiology assistant workflow (global and specific exam types)**

If a practice uses radiology assistants, zVision can be configured to put all (or some subset) of exams into an “unverified” status. These exams will show up on the radiology assistant’s worklist, until they mark it “verified”, which will move it to “unread” status. If the radiologist determines there is more work needed before reading the exam, the radiologist can move the exam back to an “unverified” status with instructions for the radiology assistant.

## **Escalation**

zVision can escalate multiple exam types based upon the amount of time they have been waiting. Exams with different priority, modality and source may be treated differently. Escalation can result in those exams being pushed to the top of the radiologist’s worklists. This will give visibility to the exam, or if Auto-Next mode is enabled, the exam will be one of the next to be read.

## **Summary**

With zVision, you can tune your systems to match the needs of your practice. Our goal at Clario is to make zVision the world’s best radiology worklist and practice management system. Because all practices are different, this means making zVision™ the world’s most configurable worklist with the richest set of features.

We encourage you to speak to Clario Sales about your preferred workflow.