The DICOM and HL7 Unified Worklist

A true unified worklist has several features, but perhaps most important is the ability to work with both DICOM and HL7. Only a true unified worklist can show all your exams while seamlessly routing priors, creating orders or informing you of status, without bringing in other vendors.

If you have decided to improve your practice workflow through the use of an independent unified worklist, choose a vendor who has the ability to address all of your workflow needs. Choose a true unified worklist.

Populating the worklist with DICOM data

Teleradiology practices accept exams from several sources. Clario allows your practice to support all your client sites using components that are tightly integrated with the Clario Smart Worklist, including:

- Router – Makes accession / MRN unique and maps procedure names. Also extracts exam and patient information from the DICOM header.
- Order creation – Sends an HL7 message out to dictation, voice recognition, or any other systems. This module can also strip fields such as ‘radiation dose delivered’ and send via HL7 to auto-include in your reports.
- DICOM listener – Polls source PACS or modality (or destination PACS) for new exams.
- Relevant prior mapping – Discovers prior exams through a DICOM query of source (or multiple sources if using the Clario Smart Worklist Master Patient Index feature).

Populating the worklist with HL7 data

A site-aware HL7 listener is critical to the success of a unified worklist-driven workflow. The listener must be extremely reliable and flexible. Flexibility allows the worklist to accept HL7 messages in any format, avoiding expensive customization of HL7 data, while still normalizing all order sources to the same database.

The value of the Clario Smart Worklist

A unified worklist can bring you tremendous advantages such as master patient indexing. However, these features only provide maximum benefit when they are integrated with both DICOM and HL7 capability. Vendors that attempt to present a unified worklist solution yet
require a third party to provide some of the features can never achieve the level of integration possible with a vendor that has everything you need.

**Summary**
Clario strongly believes that investing in an independent unified worklist is the best decision a radiology practice can make. But all unified worklists are not equal. You will find that some are more “RIS-like” in that they are populated by HL7 feeds, and others are more “PACS-like” in that they are populated by DICOM data. Sometimes these vendors will work with third parties to attempt to perform both functions. While the combined functionality may look good on paper, the reality of these multiple-vendor offerings often results in interfacing instead of true integration, and finger-pointing instead of the one-call support your group needs to provide the care and efficiency demanded by today’s market.

Avoid purchasing a PACS or RIS that has been dressed up to pretend it is an independent unified worklist. Clario’s smart worklist has been designed from the ground up to be a fully functional unified worklist that can grow with your practice.

For more information, email sales@clariomedical.com.