

GE Healthcare

Saving time with automated reporting

LOGIQ 5 and Report Writer

Productivity is essential in a mobile ultrasound practice. At Precision Ultrasound Imaging, Inc., in Jackson, Miss., sonographer Jeri Collins saves an average of 15 minutes per exam by using the Report Writer feature on her GE LOGIQ® 5 Expert system. The feature automates reporting and eliminates paper report forms. It also delivers reports that are easier for physicians to read and interpret.



Precision Ultrasound, founded in 1993, provides mobile ultrasound service to rural hospitals, nursing homes and clinics. Owner and sonographer Melissa Kelley employs two sonographers who perform a complete range of studies. The firm owns four GE Healthcare systems: LOGIQ 7, LOGIQ 5 PRO, LOGIQ 5 Expert, and LOGIQ Book.

Collins, RDMS, RTR, RVT, RCS, does about 25 exams per week, traveling primarily to nursing homes with her LOGIQ 5 Expert, a compact system she can easily wheel into confined spaces in patient rooms.

The automated Report Writer saves time during the exam, as well as afterwards in preparing and sending reports to the interpreting physician. Collins believes her physicians now get better-organized information, saving them time and supporting a sound diagnoses.

Automated data entry

Before Report Writer, Collins had to sit down and fill out a sonographer comment sheet when she finished a study "I had to hand write the patient's personal information and each measurement in the appropriate place," explains Collins.

"Now, before the exam I enter the patient information on a very user-friendly screen," says Collins. "Report Writer automatically transfers that information and all my measurements directly into the report. The only thing I have to do is type in my comments. I type faster than I write, so that speeds things up a lot. In addition, I can incorporate notes right at the patient's bedside and comment on the images while the machine is still on," continues Collins. "Before, I had to do everything after the study was over."

The result is that exams that once took Precision Ultrasound an average of 45 minutes now take about 30. "Those 15 minutes mean a lot to a mobile practice," Collins says. "It allows me to offer the fast exam times you would expect in a clinic setting."

Better diagnostic information

Automation pays even more dividends when Collins prepares her reports and sends them to physicians. "I used to come back to the office, send the images to the radiologist, then fax

over a lot of paperwork describing what I saw in my study," says Collins. "In reviewing the report, the radiologist had to read my comments, then go back through the images to find what I was referencing."

Now, Collins prints her report and comments directly from the LOGIQ 5 to a form that includes a space where the reviewing physician can add comments and a signature. Reports can be forwarded electronically or in hard copy.

Significantly, Report Writer lets Collins drag and drop images from the study into the report. Each image can be referenced in the report text and captioned. "If my report documents a two-centimeter complex mass in the liver, the radiologist also sees the supporting image," Collins says.

In carotid artery studies, Collins inserts freeze-frame images to show critical findings, saving cardiologists the trouble of winding back through videotape. "This way, I can draw specific attention to any abnormalities," Collins says.

"Allowing physicians to simultaneously see images and read my observations takes uncertainty out of the process and ensures that a busy physician reviewing multiple studies won't miss an important detail," says Collins, "Furthermore, it helps promote a better diagnosis for the patient's benefit."

Fast and flexible

The system also provides flexibility to customize reports for different types of studies. "For abdominal work," says Collins, "I was able to easily give myself space to type comments about each organ - liver, gall bladder, kidney and spleen." Her customized carotid artery report includes a drawing of the vessels where she can insert measurements in the appropriate places.

"Automated reporting makes a huge difference," Kelley observes. "In our line of work, time is of the essence. You have a day's worth of patients on your schedule, and you want each one to get a quality study and good diagnosis. Paperwork bogs you down and puts you behind. Report Writer takes that stress away, streamlining the process and saving a tremendous amount of time."

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