INTEGRATING THE HEALTHCARE ENTERPRISE – RADIATION ONCOLOGY (IHE-RO)

CLINICAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Consistent Patient Identification in Radiation Oncology

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Description:

This profile addresses the issue of keeping patient identification consistent throughout the course of treatment in different radiation therapy systems. It is a typical use case which prevents multiple key stroke errors of patient identifiable information. In today’s world, we register the patient via their identifiable information in multiple systems which lead to data entry errors. To avoid this problem, a great deal of time may be spent to locate and correct errors.

This profile will use the same transactions used in the IHE Radiology Scheduled workflow profile.

Rationale for Profile Creation:

Currently there is no consistent and comprehensive approach to exchange patient demographic and identification information with the software and hardware systems used in our radiation therapy clinics. This information is manually keyed into these systems such as CT Simulator. This manual data entry increases the chance of errors and compromises on the safety of the treatment planning and delivery process.

This profile will specify transactions that maintain the consistency of patient information from registration through CT simulation, treatment planning, and treatment delivery. It provides the first steps towards defining a departmental workflow management among all these software systems.

Clinical Impact:

Systems adhering to this profile will promote the single entry of the patient’s demographics and identification information and its dissemination to other systems as a particular piece of data would be only entered once. This profile will ensure that study identification and status is accurately tracked throughout the department. Also, it will reduce staff time identifying and correcting errors (among the treatment management systems and PACS)