



Department of Health
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South Metropolitan Area Health Service

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New radiology interface to improve care for patients

It's exciting times for medical imaging in Perth with a two year project coming to fruition this week the result will be a new radiology interface that links the public and private hospitals and health services.

A trial of the interface will be introduced at Armadale-Kelmscott Memorial Hospital and will link its Emergency Department to the radiology services at all Perth tertiary hospitals.

Working party Chairman and Armadale Health Service Clinical Director Dr Yusuf Nagree said many radiology services in WA were provided by the private sector and images taken at these facilities were not accessible at other public hospitals.

"Images taken of public patients in these privately operated clinics are not viewable in the rest of the public sector, notably the tertiary hospitals," Dr Nagree said.

"This is a particular issue when patients are transferred from the Emergency Departments from a peripheral hospital because their images are not available to clinicians in the tertiary sector.

"This project will provide significant benefit to patients and health professionals by overcoming some of these current issues," he said.

This interface will:

- Reduce the need to re-X-ray patients when they go to the tertiary sites because all of their images are immediately available.
- Reduce the need to transfer patients because specialists in the tertiary hospitals can provide opinions on treatment options for patients in Armadale.
- Provide more accurate reporting because a radiologist can see all of a patient's X-rays for comparison.
- Increase flexibility for patients who can have X-rays in the public or private sector and radiologists can access all of the images.

The working party for this project consisted of RPH Radiologist Dr Turab Chakera, WA Health RIS/PACS Manager Phil Jones, Fremantle Hospital Radiographer Mike O'Donnell and Acting Director InfoHealth Jon Harrison. Several other health professionals also assisted with this working party.

Following the anticipated success of the trial at Armadale, Peel and Bunbury Hospitals will be brought online, and a more extensive rollout would follow.

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