

# Vendor Neutral Archiving in Healthcare

## VNA DELIVERS:

- **Clinicians:** Fast, easy access to complete patient records.
- **IT:** Simpler management and maintenance and greater productivity.
- **Administrators:** Easier HIPAA compliance, lower costs and reduced risks.

## Overview

Because of the fragmented U.S. healthcare system and the infrastructure that supports it, moving to patient-centered electronic health records (EHRs) has been a challenge. The task of aggregating multiple data sets tethered to specialized clinical applications and built on proprietary code has been so costly and complex that many healthcare organizations resist taking the next step. Add the massive growth of medical imaging data and it's easy to see why.

This same patient data is also subject to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) rules and other laws that mandate the long-term security, privacy and availability of protected health information (PHI); a task that can be made much simpler by integrating all patient data into EHRs.

The benefits of doing so are profound: more informed decisions and better outcomes, less duplication and fewer errors, more simplified management and lower costs. And it puts healthcare organizations on the path to "meaningful use."

## The Solution

Vendor neutral archive (VNA) solutions offer a centralized data repository that serves multiple clinical applications, regardless of the vendor or technology, including Picture Archiving and Communication Systems (PACS), Hospital Information Systems (HIS), Radiology Information Systems (RIS), EHRs and others.

With a centralized archive, clinicians can securely add, access and share relevant patient information, across the enterprise, for more collaborative diagnoses and treatment plans.

Using a standardized format, all patient and exam data is migrated one time to the VNA. Active interfaces help keep data synchronized and available with upstream and downstream clinical systems, such as PACS, HIS, RIS and others. You can then replace systems as needed without the burdensome costs and effort associated with legacy systems.

By standardizing and integrating patient information at the archive level, you can consolidate and manage your storage environment to boost productivity, reduce costs and improve patient care. Plus, you can better manage data security to minimize data loss and ensure HIPAA compliance.

## Benefits

- Consolidate data from multiple proprietary systems into a single, synchronized repository for more simplified management.
- Eliminate costly dependence on proprietary systems and re-claim your data.
- Ensure fast access to and near-continuous availability of data, even when PACS and other systems are down.
- Centrally store and distribute patient data to reduce the number, and cost, of complex system interfaces.
- Incorporate intelligent retention management policies to better manage the data lifecycle and reduce risk.
- More efficiently migrate large data volumes to reduce costs and simplify your storage environment.
- Give clinicians a complete longitudinal view of the patient record for better quality care.

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## **More Collaboration, Better Patient Care**

With isolated PACS and other clinical systems integrated at the archival level via a VNA, healthcare organizations can begin to realize the goal of quality patient-centric care. Away from the confines of siloed systems, clinicians can access patient information from across the enterprise to better collaborate on decisions, diagnoses and treatment plans. Fewer errors means better patient safety, and data is always available, even when PACS or other systems are down.

## **Lower Costs, Greater Efficiency**

Reducing costs, especially in a time of shrinking resources, is one of the key benefits of VNA solutions. Storing and sharing data across the enterprise is much less expensive than archiving data at the departmental level. More importantly, the management and maintenance costs associated with a consolidated archive, data replication, in particular, are drastically reduced, giving you more time for mission-critical projects.

## **Freedom from Costly Proprietary Systems**

In the age of patient centricity, PACS and other proprietary systems often hold healthcare organizations hostage to their solutions, driving up cost and complexity and creating disconnects in patient care. With a VNA solution, you're no longer tethered to proprietary storage, giving you complete control over your data and allowing more collaborative patient care.

You can choose standards-based PACS or other clinical systems and, with a simple plugin, connect to the VNA; no costly data migrations or other significant data manipulations are needed. And with data available across systems, you can now perform enterprise-wide analytics to better understand trends, traffic, patterns and more.

## **Automated, Secure Data Lifecycle Management**

HIPAA rules require patient information to be retained and easily accessible for decades, requiring healthcare IT organizations to understand the clinical value of the data as it changes over time. With this knowledge, you can align the data, based on its value, to the appropriate storage tier. VNAs can then automate this process and, using complex rules and HIPAA requirements, compress data and move it to the appropriate tier, replicate data for disaster recovery purposes or purge it altogether.

**To get started, call (800) 245-2156 or send an email to [info@Solutions-ii.com](mailto:info@Solutions-ii.com) or visit [www.Solutions-ii.com](http://www.Solutions-ii.com) to see how your healthcare organization can benefit from an industry-leading vendor neutral archive solution.**

## **ABOUT SOLUTIONS II**

Solutions II is nationally recognized for world class innovation in virtualization, business continuance and data lifecycle management. Solutions II assists Clients every day, to leverage technologies and services that drive the cost out of IT. Solutions II's commitment of bringing best-of-breed solutions to Clients includes a professional services practice dedicated to increasing customer service levels and decreasing the time and support required for implementations to keep their Clients "Performing Ahead of the Curve."