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As a collaboration of professional societies and companies, Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE, www.ihe.net) seeks to establish methods wherein health computer systems can communicate to achieve specific functional objectives. IHE profiles define the detailed requirements that systems must meet in order to achieve the objective. These requirements often involve DICOM and HL7 standards. Periodic industry test sessions (called Conformance Tests) are used to demonstrate the conformance of specific products. Health domains include Radiology and Radiation Oncology. AAPM, American College of Radiology, RSNA, SNM, and SIIM are member organizations and about 100 companies also participate. We focus on the current IHE efforts which impact diagnostic radiology.

1. Radiology: Mammography Image (MAMMO) Integration Profile.
The Radiology Technical Framework, the MAMMO profiles specify how DICOM full field mammography images are created, exchanged, and used. The detailed specifications are supplemented in the IHE Radiology: Mammography User's Handbook. This profile provides important requirements for departments implementing a mammography PACS system with workstation interpretation. Of particular importance are display specifications regarding presentation size, CAD overlays, and presentation states.
2. Radiology: Portable Data for Imaging (PDI) Integration Profile.
This profile specifies methods that allow patients and referring physicians to obtain and view diagnostic images and reports. It is not intended to provide archival solutions. Use in operating rooms is specifically delineated. The use of CD media is specified along with both web-based viewing support and DICOM standard CD records that can be imported and/or viewed by DICOM devices. The profile has taken on recent importance due to chronic problems in surgical specialties resulting from the prevalent use of proprietary formats on exported CDs. A problem now considered by the AMA to be a patient safety issue.

Objectives:

1. Understand from two examples how the IHE profiles impact diagnostic radiology PACS.
2. Learn how recent mammography profiles can be used when specifying systems for digital mammography reading.
3. Understand how to avoid problems with exchanging imaged data between institutions.