

Issues in Data Flow and Data Management in Radiation Oncology – C. Bloch

Radiation therapy treatments grow ever more complex along with a growing reliance on networked computer systems to carry out our daily routines. Medical physicists have both an ethical as well as a legal responsibility to provide quality assurance to the entire treatment process. In order to do that effectively one needs to understand the systems in question, particularly weak points that can result in failures. This talk will provide an overview of the systems on which we rely and some of the important aspects of maintaining their functionality.

Learning Objectives:

1. Review the variety of types of patient data common in Radiation Oncology.
2. Understand the basics of HIPAA as it pertains to pertaining that data and business continuity.
3. Understand the various causes of electronic data loss, including viruses, worms, computer system failures and theft.
4. Review how network topology can be used to enhance efficiency as well as provide additional layers of protection for patient data.