4 Sites Using Contrast Protocol Management Software

Server-based CT contrast delivery system emerges at these hospitals across the U.S.

The individuals who appear are for illustrative purposes only. All persons depicted are models and not real patients.

Manage Your Contrast Data Intelligently

Data has become an important part of any business conversation over recent years and across many industries, but particularly so in the healthcare space, where hospitals must now capture and document data as part of their operations. For many, it is required in order to support quality processes in diagnostic procedures and patient care.

There are multiple potential data points that can be gleaned from a contrast delivery system, but proper documentation and management must be key to successful utilization. From contrast injection reports to protocol management, NEXO®, a server-based solution from Bracco Injeneering, offers seamless integration system-wide for healthcare systems, administrators and technologists that are looking to manage their contrast media and analyze its usage. Along with NEXO [Dose]™ radiation dose management software, these innovative solutions are making an impact on sites across the United States.

See inside for more ➔
Located in western South Dakota, the Regional Health system serves communities via facilities such as Rapid City Regional Hospital, Spearfish Regional Hospital, Custer Regional Hospital, Lead-Deadwood Regional Hospital and Sturgis Regional Hospital. It recently implemented NEXO contrast delivery management software and NEXO [Dose] radiation dose software in January 2016 across six different sites, and is anticipating results that would benefit the region for years to come.

Citing value as key, Rapid City’s Director of Medical Imaging, Nathan Pulscher, said the decision to install NEXO was important in helping them move forward into the future and improve their contrast data and protocol management. “We had a lot of boxes to check off with regards to how we were going to meet our needs,” said Pulscher. “This informatics gave us the best opportunity regarding flexibility, cost and return of investment. As a multifunctional product, NEXO provides us with a chance to address not only the clinical needs and optimization, but also the Joint Commission regulations and expectations moving forward.”

The hospital’s staff said it expects enterprise-wide uniformity to help in improving radiology services overall, as prior to NEXO there was little being done to completely optimize contrast dose. “We’re all doing the same protocols now, and if there’s something that one radiologist wants tweaked, they just come to me and I send it out from there,” said Lance Perrett, CT Supervisor at Rapid City. This uniformity now means that radiologists across the board are receiving the same exact recommended contrast protocols for imaging procedures and are not at risk of having the incorrect or outdated information.

Rounding out the installation at Rapid City Regional Hospital was the ease of implementation and constant communication between Regional Health and Bracco, said the hospital’s personnel. “From an IT standpoint, they were very thorough and had outlined how this was going to be put together for us,” said Tracie Veazey, IT Applications Analyst at Rapid City. “They came out for a week and the implementation came out very polished and thorough.”

The Upper Allegheny Health System comprises three facilities: Bradford Regional Medical Center in Bradford, 1
Pennsylvania; Olean General Hospital in Olean, New York; and an outpatient imaging center, Open MRI of Olean. Prior to NEXO, only Bradford Regional was using a contrast management system, but when the need for a new injector arose, the idea of connecting Olean and Bradford Regional, along with Olean Open MRI, on the same informatics was appealing.

At Olean General, imaging departments were considering making the switch over to Bracco contrast and EmpowerCTA® injectors (which were already present at the outpatient imaging center), but the concern was that Bradford, a sister hospital, was already using a completely different contrast delivery system. Any new software at Olean would have to match. It was then that the NEXO software became the solution for an enterprise-wide management need.

With its server-based network capabilities and multi-injector controls with PACS/RIS connectivity, the centralized NEXO system was installed and implemented at Olean and Bradford in July 2015. The entire health system became fitted with new injectors and contrast, all connected seamlessly across Upper Allegheny Health.

“NEXO’s informatics platform is a lot easier to use because everything is integrated into the injector,” said Jason Tingley, Lead CT Technologist at Bradford Regional. “It’s easier for my technologists to use because you pull all the patients’ information from a work list. Before, I had to input all my pertinent information into a separate computer and hope they matched to the correct patient, but with NEXO we have seen an increase in efficiency with documentation and have more time to devote to patient interaction.”

Amongst the other benefits for Upper Allegheny Health are access to patient history, protocol management capabilities and the ability to track key performance indicators. NEXO also offered them the ability to pull data from across departments and sites, while simultaneously being able to push contrast protocols to all of their injectors. It is easier now for them to select their patients and see everything on the injector monitors; with the prior informatics system at Bradford, the technologist used to have to go on two separate monitors to view such information.

Duke University Health System became one of the first sites in the United States to implement the NEXO contrast management software in April 2015. Duke Health features

Easily retrieve patient contrast injection history
All information is for illustrative purposes only. No actual patient data included.
more than 15 imaging scanners spread throughout its care facilities, such as the Duke Medicine Pavilion and the Duke Cancer Center, and more than 60 technologists using the injectors.

“The big thing with NEXO is being able to have a protocol manager and push out correct protocols to all our injectors via the network,” said Carolyn Lowry, CT Technologist at Duke University Medical Center. “I do not have to physically go to each injector to change or add new protocols.”

Lowry said another key benefit of having the server-based NEXO is the ability to lock protocols. Even if a technologist has to enter different values at the time of scanning, those changes will not be permanently saved, ensuring consistency across facilities and among staff.

Prior to NEXO, technologists at Duke had contrast protocol lists at every scanner, which had to be edited and updated manually. Now Lowry is able to update or add new contrast protocols to all 15 injectors by web access.

**West Georgia Health**

The West Georgia Health System has been offering care services to communities in Western Georgia and Eastern Alabama for more than 60 years. Employing more than 1,000 personnel system-wide, West Georgia features 276 acute care beds and services in diagnostic and interventional cardiology, cancer diagnosis and treatment, radiology and breast health. In addition to CT, the system offers imaging modalities such as MRI and fluoroscopy.

NEXO contrast management software was implemented across the enterprise in September 2015, along with the NEXO [Dose] radiation dose management software. The latter had actually led to implementation of the former, when West Georgia decided to tackle contrast media management as well as radiation dose. As they were similar projects, both were handled at the same time in order to leverage IT resources and to get ahead of the game as far as regulatory requirements go.

The benefits of having NEXO and NEXO [Dose] software at West Georgia are many. Since everything is software-based, there is no additional hardware required, and the organization was able to rely on Bracco’s IT experts to successfully set up and install the platforms.

**About Bracco and Bracco Injeneering**

Bracco Diagnostics Inc. is the U.S. subsidiary of Bracco Imaging S.p.A., a global leading company in the diagnostic imaging business.

Bracco Imaging offers a product and solution portfolio for all key diagnostic imaging modalities: X-ray Imaging (including Computed Tomography-CT, Interventional Radiology, and Cardiac Catheterization), Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Contrast Enhanced Ultrasound, and Nuclear Medicine through radioactive tracers. The diagnostic imaging portfolio is completed by a range of medical devices and advanced administration systems for contrast imaging products.

Bracco Injeneering S.A., located in Lausanne, Switzerland, is the most recently added Business Unit of Bracco Imaging. Bracco Injeneering is committed to developing the best-in-class integrated injection solutions with a strong heritage in research and innovation. It provides quality solutions for state-of-the-art radiology centers, offering proven injection technology, built on Bracco Imaging’s expertise.

For more information visit [www.braccoimaging.com](http://www.braccoimaging.com).

NEXO and EmpowerCTA (registered in the U.S.) are registered trademarks of Bracco Injeneering S.A., and NEXO [DOSE] is a trademark of Bracco Injeneering S.A.

NEXO and NEXO [DOSE] are distributed by Bracco Diagnostics Inc.

NEXO is manufactured by Bracco Injeneering S.A.

NEXO [DOSE] is manufactured by and is licensed from PHS Technologies Group, L.L.C., a wholly-owned subsidiary of PACSHealth, L.L.C.