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NEWS

RSNA Press Release

Initial Release of RSNA's *RadLex Playbook* Finds Quick Adoption

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OAK BROOK, Ill. (November 28, 2011) – The Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) released the first version of the *RadLex Playbook* (http://playbook.rsna.org) on November 1, and already this resource has found eager users in the radiologic community. The Playbook provides a standard, uniformly structured set of names for radiology procedures. The RadLex Playbook is being demonstrated in the Image Sharing Demonstration booth this week at the RSNA 97th Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting at McCormick Place in Chicago (Nov. 27 – Dec. 2).

The initial release of the Playbook provides names for more than 350 common CT procedures. It was developed by extracting names from "chargemasters"—lists of orderable procedures—from several large radiology sites and adapting them to the standardized structure defined for Playbook terms.

The Playbook fills a significant gap in the web of information used in radiology: the absence of a consistent way of referring to specific radiology procedures. Currently each institution develops its own list of procedure names. Considerable effort is expended in creating and maintaining these lists. Moreover, the fact that each site develops and maintains its own list thwarts the ability of each institution to use its information for secondary purposes like clinical trials, outcomes analysis, national registries, and other quality improvement efforts. This coming year the RadLex Playbook project will release a set of terms for standardized naming of MRI and x-ray procedures.

"The release of the RadLex Playbook is an important milestone for radiology, as it brings us into the era of large-scale efforts to understand and improve our imaging practices, and to enhance our access to and use of imaging information in clinical practice, teaching and research," said Daniel L. Rubin, M.D., M.S., assistant professor of radiology and medicine at Stanford University and Chair of the RadLex Steering Committee of the RSNA.

The Playbook provides the crucial technology to enable all institutions and practices to improve the quality of data shared with image and dose registries. The American College of Radiology (ACR) has become an early adopter of the Playbook for use in its CT Dose Index

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Registry (DIR; https://nrdr.acr.org/Portal/DIR/Main/page.aspx). The DIR allows facilities to compare their CT dose indices to regional and national values. Using Playbook procedure names makes it possible to effectively analyze and compare the information submitted to establish national benchmarks. The ACR has begun applying Playbook procedure names to the data it collects and using them in the reports generated through the DIR.

"We have found that procedure names vary between and even within imaging facilities," said Richard Morin, Ph.D., FACR, and Chair of the Dose Index Registry Committee. "Use of the RadLex Playbook allows the Dose Index Registry to standardize exam names across hundreds of facilities which, in turn, allows us to make more accurate comparisons in our feedback reports. We consider this to be essential, and it distinguishes the ACR DIR."

Playbook names also provide substantial benefits in clinical applications. They enable more accurate ordering and scheduling, standardized image acquisition protocols, automated selection of reporting templates and more efficient and accurate coding and billing.

The Image Sharing Demonstration booth is located in Hall A, South Building, Booth 2851. In the demonstration, Playbook names are used for ordering, acquisition of images and automated selection of report templates, and are also used in dose monitoring systems, including the ACR DIR.

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Note: Copies of RSNA 2011 news releases and electronic images will be available online at *RSNA.org/press11* beginning Monday, Nov. 28.

RSNA is an association of more than 48,000 radiologists, radiation oncologists, medical physicists and related scientists committed to excellence in patient care through education and research. The Society is based in Oak Brook, Ill. (*RSNA.org*)

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