

Apollo-Bramwell to become the first digital hospital in Indian Ocean region

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Apollo-Bramwell Hospital, a joint venture between Mauritius-based British American Investment and Asia's healthcare giant, Apollo Hospitals, is introducing a revolutionary system that will make it the first filmless and paperless hospital in the Indian Ocean region.

The Picture Archiving Communication System (PACS) will integrate the hospital's state-of-the-art IT infrastructure to acquire, sort, transport, store and electronically display the medical images.

"Apollo-Bramwell will treat patients with a wide range of complex medical conditions. During diagnosis we may capture many different types of medical images, creating a large amount of information that will need to be safely stored and easily accessible by our doctors," says Dr Miodrag Todorovic, Project Director. "The PACS solution will make it easier for us to manage imaging data, while providing access to images wherever and whenever we need it."

Practically, PACS will enable medical images (such as CT-scans, MRIs, X-rays, angiography, sonography, etc...) to be stored electronically and viewed on screens, so that doctors and other health professionals can access data and compare it with previous images within the click of a button.

The system is a useful and practical tool that benefits all parties involved, namely radiologists, physicians, patients and the hospital, especially by facilitating instant access of these images at the ward and in the operating room which will speed up the medical treatment process substantially.

"In radiological diagnostics, it turns out to be increasingly vital to provide findings in real time to image acquisition, not only in the hospital but also in doctor's practice where patients are waiting for their radiographs to take with them and later on has to duplicate the scans to provide findings which leads to higher costs," explains Dr Todorovic.

"By reducing the physical storage requirements of bulky films, radiologists can access patients' current records and medical history prompter. Doctors can consequently provide improved treatment to patients through earlier intervention, reduced length of stay and no threat of losing films or patient's history anymore," he adds.

In general, through the use of PACS, Apollo Bramwell Hospital will offer a number of advantages.

Benefits to hospital team

- Faster processing of patients (efficiency and efficacy)
- Faster access to current patient imaging records
- Faster access to patient history records
- File integrity and speed of retrieval
- No loss of films or loss of patient files

Benefits to the Patient

- Reduction of radiation exposure from x-ray equipment, as a result of less need of re-takes of images
- Reduction of chance of adverse reactions to contrast agents
- Medical care can commence faster by immediate picture and finding availability

- Reduced length of waiting time and stay

“By taking responsibility for the delivery of the service, this system will enable the hospital to focus on the most important part of any healthcare system – its patients,” says Dr Todorovic.

About Apollo Bramwell Hospital

The 200-bed, multi-speciality hospital, in Moka, in the centre of the island, is a joint venture between leading Mauritian business group, British American Investment Co. (Mtius) Ltd, and India’s healthcare giant, Apollo Hospitals Group. Medical care will include cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery, neurology and neurosurgery, nephrology and ophthalmology, neonatology and paediatrics, trauma and cosmetic surgery. Total investment in the project is estimated at over US\$70 million (over Rs2billion) with employment opportunities for over 500 staff.

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