



## HIGHLIGHTS

DIABETIC CHILDREN ENJOY HOLIDAY  
CAMP WITH A DIFFERENCE

ENT INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR  
WITH A DIFFERENCE

RARE HONOUR FOR PROF RATNAM

REPRO: A NEW DIMENSION IN  
INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOLOGY

## Service At X-Ray Department Now Computerised Another Milestone in NUH Computerisation Strategy



*It was a learning experience  
for everyone from radiologists  
to administrative staff.*

## Greetings!

Warmest wishes for the New Year

from  
the Management  
& Staff of NUH.

Another significant milestone was chalked recently in NUH's hospital-wide integrated computerisation strategy when its radiology information system (RIS) was launched on 16 October. RIS is a culmination of five months of intense discussions, system analysis, design and testing involving users, our own IT analysts and a software designer.

The success of implementing the RIS was to a large part, due to the receptiveness and enthusiasm of staff at the Diagnostic Imaging Department (DDI). Said Ms Serina Tan, the department's user analyst: "It was a learning experience for everyone, from the radiologists, radiographers to the administrative support staff. As RIS is a workflow-based system, the staff's extensive participation, feedback and usage are needed."

The RIS also provides the setting for the next phase of computerisation which is a picture archival communication system where digital images from different modalities such as MRI, computed tomography and ultrasound are managed and retrieved from different workstations for viewing.

The RIS complements existing sub-systems for file-tracking, appointment scheduling, billing, patient tracking and X-ray report management, completely automating previously manual processes and physical tracking of records and patients. Furthermore, integration of NUH RIS with the hospital information system, I-Care, eliminates duplication or inconsistent patient demographics. +

### Registration

A patient is first "checked-in" on the RIS at the reception. A check-in ID is issued as a reference for all the procedures that the patient is about to undergo.

### Procedure

The radiographer, nurse or radiologist will "Start" and "End" the procedure on the RIS accordingly. The radiologist/radiographer ID and number of films are indicated.

### Film Reporting

When the films have been reported, the audiotypists access the RIS to type the report. The patient's demographics, eg. age, sex, are retrieved from I-CARE to be included in the reports. The radiologist can call access to a listing of their cases and electronically verify the ones that have been typed. Upon verification, the report is printed.

### Advantages

**Automated tracking of patients and records.** The RIS enables staff tracking a patient or tracing a report to do so very quickly, without moving from room to room. The latest status of the procedure would indicate the location of the patient or the report. This has improved servicing of queries from the clinics and wards.

**Elimination of filing errors.** With reports electronically filed, there will not be human filing errors. Man-hours required to file duplicate copies may also be channelled for other tasks.

## What RIS Can Do For Staff & Patients

**Automated data retrieval/collection.** Workload and statistical reports generated by the RIS also reduces manual collection of data eg. number of reports typed by each typist. Other data which was not available before can now be retrieved easily, eg. referral source for external referrals, room utilisation, film usage etc. +