RADIOLOGY / NUCLEAR MEDICINE RELEASE NOTES

Patch RA*5.0*75

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Department of Veterans Affairs
Health Systems Design & Development
Provider Systems

Release Notes: Patch RA*5*75

This patch addresses three issues within the VistA Radiology/Nuclear Medicine application:

- Reason for Study
- Patient Age display and algorithm
- Date Desired default

Each issue is briefly described in the sections that follow. Please see the Patch Description for installation instructions and background information about these three issues; see the Radiology/Nuclear Medicine 5.0 User Manual for new user instructions and examples related to this patch.

Issue One – Reason for Study

This patch will require the user entering an exam request to input the reason for the request into a new field, REASON FOR STUDY, which is stored in the RAD/NUC MED ORDERS (#75.1) file. The CLINICAL HISTORY FOR EXAM prompt will become optional.

VistA Radiology/Nuclear Medicine reports, orders, and patient profile options have been enhanced to display both the REASON FOR STUDY and CLINICAL HISTORY data.

This issue arose from the inability of the Nuance PowerScribe voice recognition system to receive CLINICAL HISTORY data of indefinite length. It can only receive the REASON FOR STUDY data of a limited length, 64 characters maximum, which meets DICOM standards.

Because the physician using PowerScribe cannot view the REASON FOR STUDY that is embedded in the CLINICAL HISTORY, s/he had to switch over to the VistA Radiology system to get the data. This patch will eliminate the need for PowerScribe users to access REASON FOR STUDY from the VistA Radiology system.

Special Notice for sites using Nuance PowerScribe

PowerScribe cannot handle certain characters that may be entered into the new REASON FOR STUDY field. Inclusion of any of these characters will cause the entire order to disappear from the PowerScribe display screen.

These characters are reserve characters in XML:
Ampersand (&), Apostrophe ('), Quote ("), Greater Than (>), and Less Than (<).

PowerScribe has a software fix planned, but has not announced a release date for this fix. Therefore, the person responsible for your site's PowerScribe interface should contact the PowerScribe National Support Center at 800.833.7776 and request a Dictaphone work order to correct this issue before patch RA*5.0*75 is installed at your site.

Operation when ordering through the front door – CPRS

CPRS GUI v26 now displays one box for both HISTORY and REASON FOR EXAM. Because the CPRS GUI cannot be modified at this time, this patch will auto-populate the REASON FOR STUDY field with "See Clinical History:" in the background. This statement will be displayed in various reports, orders, and patient profiles where CLINICAL HISTORY is displayed.

CPRS GUI v27 (OR*3.0*243) will have separate boxes for REASON FOR STUDY and for CLINICAL HISTORY. As mentioned above, CLINICAL HISTORY will then be optional.

Operation when ordering through the backdoor – Radiology/Nuclear Medicine

VistA Radiology/Nuclear Medicine now collects the REASON FOR STUDY (required) and CLINICAL HISTORY (optional). When this patch is installed, CPRS GUI v26 will display both the REASON FOR STUDY and the CLINICAL HISTORY inside the existing HISTORY & REASON FOR EXAM box in a three-line format as follows:

REASON FOR STUDY will be displayed first and flagged by "REASON FOR STUDY:" then a line of hyphens, then the CLINICAL HISTORY. For example:

```
REASON FOR STUDY: This is an example only
-----------------------------------------
The Clinical History starts here..........
```

CPRS GUI v27 (OR*3.0*243) will display REASON FOR STUDY and CLINICAL HISTORY in separate boxes. As mentioned above, CLINICAL HISTORY will then be optional.

Issue Two - Patient Age display and algorithm

This patch changes the way a patient's age is displayed at the top of a report requisition. The incorrect patient age was displayed through these two options:

- Print Rad/Nuc Med Requests by Date [RA ORDERPRINTS]
- Print Selected Requests by Patient [RA ORDERPRINTPAT]

The patient's age had been calculated against the date the request was displayed, instead of calculating the patient's age against the date the request was entered. Since users expect to see the patient's age at the time the exam was requested, a modification has been made in routine RAORD5 to calculate the patient's age based on:

- The patient's Date of Birth
- The date the request was entered.

In addition, routine RAORD6 was modified to change the request report header:

- The label "Age" has been changed to "Age at req"
- The first line now contains the word "Printed:" to indicate that the date is the date of printing, not the date of the request.

Issue Three – Date Desired default

This patch modifies the exam request process by removing the default value from the "Date Desired" field. Whether an order is entered through CPRS or through the Radiology/Nuclear Medicine application, an erroneously entered "Date Desired" value impacts a radiology department's ability to comply with the thirty day outpatient appointment wait times mandate. Physicians sometimes use the default date of "Today" as a matter of convenience, rather than entering the actual date they want the examination to take place.

The automatic default date of "Today" has been removed, and physicians are now required to enter a date they actually desire to have the examination. This patch only addresses the backdoor (VistA Radiology/Nuclear Medicine application) order entry. CPRS GUI v27 will address the front door removal of "Today" as the default to "Date Desired."