

February 24, 2003

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE USE OF THIN CLIENT TECHNOLOGY WITH VistA IMAGING

- 1. PURPOSE.** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive outlines policy and required actions for the use of Thin Client technology in conjunction with the Veterans Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) Imaging system.
- 2. BACKGROUND.** Thin Client technology involves delivering Windows applications to clients (the workstations) from centrally based servers. The applications run on the server and screen updates are sent to the client. The client workstation simply displays the screen updates and sends mouse and keyboard events back to the server.
- 3. POLICY.** It is VHA policy that clinicians must have adequate display quality when viewing medical images. Adequate display quality of non-diagnostic images must be effected by September 30, 2003, as outlined in this directive. ***NOTE:** It is recommended that display stations be brought into compliance as soon as possible.*
- 4. ACTION**
 - a. Thin Client display stations are not to be used for medical diagnostic interpretation of clinical images.
 - b. Any display station, either Thin Client or PC, that is used for non-diagnostic viewing of medical images must provide at least 24-bit color display with a screen resolution of 1024x768.
 - c. Facilities that currently use Thin Client display stations that are not 24-bit color displays to view non-diagnostic images must upgrade or replace those display stations by September 30, 2003.
 - d. All future purchases of display stations to view non-diagnostic images must have a 24-bit color display.
 - e. Beginning October 2003, VistA Imaging software will block the display of medical images when adequate screen resolution or bitdepth is not available.
 - f. Prior to October 2003, VistA Imaging software will warn users when display resolution or color bitdepth does not provide adequate display quality for viewing of medical images. Users will be required to acknowledge the warning.
 - g. Scanned documents, such as informed consents, may be viewed with less than 24-bit color bitdepth, and will not be blocked from view.

THIS VHA DIRECTIVE EXPIRES FEBRUARY 28, 2008

VHA DIRECTIVE 2003-011

February 24, 2003

h. It is recognized that not all medical images can be viewed using Thin Client technology. Types of medical images that cannot be viewed using Thin Client technology will be blocked from display at all times. At present, these include motion files.

5. REFERENCES. None.

6. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY: The Chief Information Officer (19) is responsible for the contents of this Directive. Questions may be referred to this office at (202) 273-8663.

7. EXPIRATION DATE: This VHA Directive expires February 28, 2008.

Robert H. Roswell, M.D.
Under Secretary for Health

DISTRIBUTION: CO: E-mailed 2/25/03
FLD: VISN, MA, DO, OC, OCRO, and 200 – E-mailed 2/25/03