

Frank Talk on Speech Recognition

By Beth Walsh

Speech recognition is providing radiologists and other specialists with improved efficiency for much quicker reports turnaround times — as long as they've chosen the right system. Success also requires good training and the right attitude across the facility.

After a disastrous first outing with speech recognition that lasted just eight days, Janet Korgeski, system administrator, clinical technology, at Moses Taylor Hospital in Scranton, Pa., didn't give up on the technology. She is in the process of implementing SpeechMagic from Philips Speech Recognition Systems. For the most part, the physicians are "willing to give it a whirl," she says. "They're giving me another chance, and I wouldn't be trying it if I didn't think the product was worth it."

Using SpeechMagic required writing an interface for the product between RIS/PACS and transcription. While that was an extra step, Korgeski says it worked out to their advantage because "by writing our own interface, we could customize it to work the way we needed it to."

Saving time, increasing revenue

All of the radiologists at Moses Taylor are using SpeechMagic on the back end. They dictate their reports into the computer. Text is created and sent to a transcriptionist. The transcriptionist makes corrections and sends the report back to the physician for signature. That process alone has saved the hospital 30 percent of transcription time. Some physicians do not send their reports to a transcriptionist for editing and instead review them and sign off on them. That saves 70 percent in transcription time. The report is sent directly to the units and referring physicians. Either way, speech "is still saving us time," Korgeski says.