

Protocol in Practice: Improving Imaging Accuracy and Workflow at Hennepin Healthcare Through the Design and Implementation of a Protocol Workbook

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Protocols are an important step in imaging workflow that ensures each study is tailored to the clinical indication, anatomy, availability of resources, institutional guidelines, and patient specific considerations. Inconsistent or incomplete protocols can lead to suboptimal imaging, diagnostic delays, and repeat exams. Radiology protocol workbooks are critical in streamlining protocols and they contribute to effective, safe, and timely evidence-based imaging care. Our presurvey indicates that these protocol workbooks are a regularly used resource by radiology residents at the University of Minnesota hospitals however this resource does not exist at all radiology residency clinical sites including Hennepin Healthcare. We created and implemented a radiology protocol workbook at Hennepin Healthcare to standardize imaging studies and streamline protocol workflow. Improvements to the prior protocol files include an index with hyperlinks, consolidated protocol information, and practical points that will streamline both the protocol selection and the image interpretation with links to helpful radiologic pearls and references. We will track the effect the workbook has on protocol related errors such as inappropriate imaging, repeat examinations, and imaging delays. Additionally, our post launch survey will assess if this workbook impacts the non-interpretive burden associated with protocols. Future directions of this project include expanding this workbook to other sections of radiology at Hennepin Healthcare including neuroradiology, body MRI, and interventional radiology protocols.