Clinical Capture Devices for V*ist*A Imaging

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Note: This is the current version of this document. All other versions are to be replaced with this document.

Clinical Capture Devices for VistA Imaging

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The purpose of this document is to communicate a change to the approval processes for clinical capture devices interfaced with VistA Imaging. These changes are intended to streamline the processes for staff involved in purchasing equipment and to provide guidelines that will ensure consistency in the types of devices being used to interface with VistA Imaging. When considering the purchase of a clinical capture device, sites are reminded of the requirement that captured images are to be stored in VistA Imaging as outlined in VHA Directive 2011-005.

The users of clinical capture devices understand that they are ultimately responsible to determine that the image quality produced is adequate for the intended clinical purpose of the device being utilized. The VistA Imaging Program Office does not have the expertise to make a determination with respect to image quality and does not endorse any vendor or device.

Effective immediately, the purchase of clinical capture devices from a list of approved clinical capture devices for VistA Imaging is no longer required; nor are the submissions of Image Quality Certification (IQC) forms or Image Acquisition Technical Data Sheets (TDS), provided that the clinical capture devices meet the minimum specifications defined in this document.

1 Document Scanners

These are the minimum specifications for interfacing a document scanner with VistA Imaging:

- Minimum resolution is 300 DPI (dots per inch)
- Minimum performance is 25 pages per minute for black-and-white documents
- The software interface of the scanner is TWAIN
- Software drivers are available for the currently approved operating system(s)
- The device utilizes a USB connection to the workstation
- No Patient Identifiable Information (PII) is displayed in the naming of files or folders created by a device used to capture and share images with VistA Imaging.

2 Digital Cameras

The minimum specification for interfacing a digital camera with VistA Imaging is 4 megapixels.

Sites are cautioned to purchase digital cameras which will satisfy the clinical purpose they are intended to be used for. The capabilities of modern digital cameras to capture images with very high resolutions may not be as important as the resolution of the hardware used to display the images.

It is suggested that the purchase of digital cameras greater than 12 megapixels be approved in advance by the VistA Imaging System Manager in consideration of the file sizes which may be generated, and the effects of storing and archiving large files in the VistA Imaging system.

3 Microscope cameras and Frame grabber/interface card devices

Users of clinical capture devices understand that they are ultimately responsible to determine that the image quality produced is adequate for the intended clinical purpose of the device being utilized. Therefore, no minimum specification is defined for these devices when being interfaced with VistA Imaging.