



Quality Assurance at vRad



vRad has received full accreditation by The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).



VIRTUAL RADIOLOGIC™

Extending radiology. Improving life.™

Quality Assurance Committee Members



Eduard Michel, MD, PhD

Undergraduate Education: University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Medical Degree: University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, MN

Graduate School: Ph.D., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Residency: Diagnostic Radiology, University of Minnesota Hospital and Clinic, Minneapolis, MN

Fellowship: Neuroradiology, Fairview-University of Minnesota Medical Center; Philips Interventional MR, Fairview-University of Minnesota Medical Center

Board Certifications: American Board of Radiology, CAQ Neuroradiology

Academic Experience: 1998-Present: Assistant Professor of Radiology, Neuroradiology, University of Minnesota Medical School and 2003-Present: Clinical Assistant Professor of Radiology, University of Minnesota Medical School

Peer-Reviewed Publications: 17

Textbook Chapters: 2

Invited Lectures: 19

Scientific Abstracts: 43



Gary Weiss, MD

Undergraduate Education: State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

Medical Degree: University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, FL

Residency: Diagnostic Radiology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Fellowship: MRI/Musculoskeletal, University of Miami/Jackson Memorial, Miami, FL

Board Certifications: American Board of Radiology

Academic Experience: 1986-1987: Clinical Assistant Professor of Radiology, University of South Florida - Tampa, FL

Peer-Reviewed Publications: 1



Julie Shaffrey, MD

Undergraduate Education: The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA

Medical Degree: The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD

Internship: Sinai Hospital, Baltimore, MD

Residency: Diagnostic Radiology, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD

Board Certifications: American Board of Radiology

Peer-Reviewed Publications: 3



Steven Brick, MD

Undergraduate Education: University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Medical Degree: Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA

Internship: Internal Medicine, The State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY

Residency: Diagnostic Radiology, The George Washington University Medical Center, Washington, DC

Chief Resident: The George Washington University Medical Center, Washington, DC

Fellowship: CT/US/MR, Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA

Board Certifications: American Board of Radiology

Academic Experience: Assistant Professor of Radiology, Division of Body Imaging, Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, DC

Peer-Reviewed Publications: 8

Textbook Chapters: 2

Scientific Abstracts: 3



Ben Strong, MD

Undergraduate Education: University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

Medical Degree: University of Arizona College of Medicine, Tucson, AZ

Internship: Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH

Residencies: Internal Medicine, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH, and Diagnostic Radiology, Arizona Health Sciences Center, Tucson, AZ

Fellowship: PET, MRI, Arizona Health Sciences Center, Tucson, AZ

Board Certifications: American Board of Radiology, American Board of Internal Medicine

Virtual Radiologic Corporation Quality Assurance Process

Philosophy

Virtual Radiologic (vRad) strives to maintain the highest professional standards for its consulting radiologists by employing a stringent quality management protocol. The protocol is under the direction of vRad's Medical Director, but is implemented on a day-to-day basis by its Quality Assurance (QA) Review Committee. The QA Committee is comprised of practicing vRad radiologists selected to ensure a complete cross-section of subspecialty training in all aspects of radiology.

vRad Quality Assurance Protocol

If a vRad client disagrees with the report issued by a vRad consulting radiologist, the following protocol is used to address the case.

Reporting

A confidential and proprietary e-fax number is identified in each client services contract. Clients simply indicate their disagreement directly on the vRad interpretation and then FAXes it to a confidential QA FAX number with a copy of their final report. Both the QA Committee and the consulting radiologist are forwarded a copy of the discrepancy report.

Review

Each discrepancy report is logged into a QA database and the case is independently reviewed by the consulting radiologist and at least one member of the QA Committee. Following the review, the Committee member rates the case using the following categories: no discrepancy, slight discrepancy, minimal discrepancy, moderate discrepancy, or severe discrepancy. The rating takes into consideration the severity of the misinterpretation, impact on patient care, and relevance of the findings, among other factors. The final rating is then made available to the consulting radiologist.

Appeal

The consulting radiologist is offered an opportunity to object, clarify or outright disagree with the QA Committee's rating. In such instances, the case may be assigned to a second Committee member for re-review. If the rating stands, one of the Committee members will contact the consulting radiologist to explain the difference in opinion regarding the

interpretation or rating.

In cases in which the QA Committee member believes that the vRad consulting radiologist's interpretation is correct, the independent opinion of a second reviewer may be requested. If both reviewers are in agreement with the vRad consulting radiologist, a QA Committee member will contact the physician who reported the discrepancy to discuss the findings.

Client Notification

A client who submits a discrepancy report may request communication with the QA Committee in one of two forms. An acknowledgement of any QA case may be requested in writing, with the final designation of the case faxed to the client. Alternately, the client facility may request a verbal communication from the QA Committee, in which case a member of the Committee will contact the physician who filed the report at the conclusion of the review process.

Over-reading

All final interpretations performed by vRad radiologists are subject to an over-read process. One percent of final interpretations are randomly selected on a daily basis and submitted for over-reading to the QA Committee. Any discrepancies detected are categorized in the same fashion as above, with the only caveat that these are categorized as "final over-reads" for reporting purposes. Discrepancies on final reports are promptly brought to the attention of the consulting radiologist who may issue an addendum to the report if, in their medical judgment, they think one is necessary. Radiology personnel, or the ordering physician, at the client site is also notified of the discrepancy so that appropriate steps can be taken to address the patient's care and medical records. This notification is usually done by telephone.

The QA data collected as part of this process is stored in a database and anonymized data can be made available to client QA committees. vRad generates anonymized data for statistical review and reporting purposes, and many of vRad's clients receive this anonymized data on a monthly basis. vRad also monitors QA statistics relative to radiology caseload on a monthly basis. Data is aggregated as appropriate to ensure compliance with HIPAA and state privacy laws.

