

"It does not do to leave a live dragon out of your calculations, if you live near him." J.R.R. Tolkien, The Hobbit

2018 ACR Mammography QC Manual: In-House Experience

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Step 0: Should We Switch?

- ❖ No facility is REQUIRED to switch to the new manual
- ❖ It is an alternative standard
- ❖ If the switch is made, there is no need to follow the manufacturers' QC manuals, except for calibrations
- ❖ If only one manufacturer is represented, change might not be indicated
- ❖ If more than one manufacturer is represented, changing can reduce complexity and confusion

Step 1: Tilling the Soil

- ❖ Introduce the idea early
 - ❖ We are all creatures of habit
 - ❖ Change can be scary
- ❖ Justify the change
 - ❖ Is it worth doing?
 - ❖ How onerous is QC currently?
 - ❖ Benefit/cost analysis



Step 1: Tilling the Soil

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Introduce the idea early <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Talked about the forthcoming manual at QC meetings ❖ Sent official announcement to QC techs ❖ Sent training opportunities ❖ We are all creatures of habit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Not such a big issue at BCH ❖ They are, but will accept justified change ❖ Change can be scary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Having lots of time to think about it has helped | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Justify the change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Is it worth doing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Up until now we've been a single-vendor department ❖ How onerous is QC currently? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Workstation QC is a pain ❖ Going to be having two vendors soon ❖ Benefit/cost analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 4 facilities = 4 phantoms ❖ Education time ❖ Time saved ❖ Confusion avoided |
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Step 2: Sowing the Seed

- ❖ This will likely be driven by the physicist
 - ❖ Introduce at QC meeting
 - ❖ Give copies of the manual
 - ❖ Probably best to give paper
 - ❖ Talk to each QC technologist individually



Step 3: Germination

- ❖ Did I mention education?
 - ❖ ACR webinars
 - ❖ Review at QC meeting
 - ❖ Go through each form
 - ❖ Remember, RT testing is pretty easy
 - ❖ Still: hands-on, one-on-one for each test
 - ❖ Be familiar with all of the RT tests!



Step 4: Hope for the Best

- ❖ Cannot force change
 - ❖ Many technologists are reluctant to change
 - ❖ Many of us are
 - ❖ Have to do it “at the right time”
 - ❖ What else is happening
 - ❖ Appropriate to calendar
 - ❖ Wait until end of quarter?
- ❖ Must be a unanimous decision
 - ❖ 3 were in favor of moving a head
 - ❖ 4 were reluctant
 - ❖ One volunteered to spearhead and one volunteered to help
 - ❖ ...
 - ❖ Guess who won



Step 5: Analyzing Our Situation

- ❖ Supervising technologist out on extended medical leave
- ❖ Having 3 new mammography units installed in 2 months by a new manufacturer
 - ❖ Have to learn use of new unit
 - ❖ Have to learn new QC
 - ❖ Vendor teaches their own QC, not ACR
- ❖ New facility opening up
 - ❖ Scheduling
 - ❖ New workflows
 - ❖ Getting first ABUS unit
 - ❖ Personnel
 - ❖ One staff member going on long term medical leave
 - ❖ Physicist going on medical leave!

Step 6: Lessons Learned

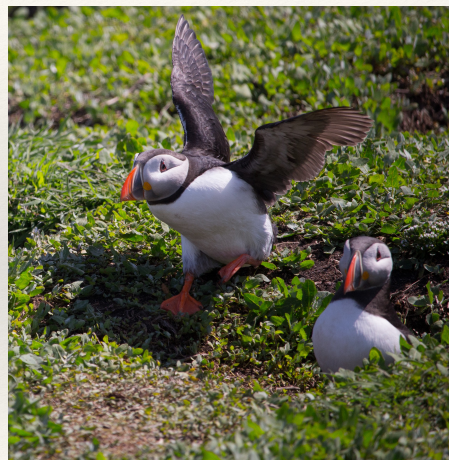
- ❖ What went right
 - ❖ All QC technologists understand the purpose of the ACR DM QC Manual
 - ❖ Some QC technologists familiar with the testing protocol
 - ❖ All QC technologists see benefits of the ACR DM QC Manual
 - ❖ All QC technologists on board with the idea of switching

Step 6: Lessons Learned

- ❖ What didn't go right
 - ❖ Timing
 - ❖ Supervising technologist off on extended medical leave
 - ❖ Too many things came to a head at the same time
 - ❖ Should have looked ahead rather than just focussing on the next move
 - ❖ Misjudged importance of neatness of documentation
 - ❖ Really wanted to start at a "natural" break

Step 8: Next Steps

- ❖ Get through infrastructure changes
- ❖ Review status of QC at next QC meeting
- ❖ Assuming that all are still on board
 - ❖ Continue education efforts
 - ❖ Testing new units using both the manufacture QC and ACR QC
- ❖ Hope for 3Q19 start



Questions?

