



Batemans Bay Regional Nuclear Imaging

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Details: www.sniq.com.au



Update on Batemans Bay Regional Nuclear Imaging

As you will be aware, after almost twenty years of continuous service to the Shoalhaven and South Coast, through our **Shoalhaven Nuclear Imaging** Rooms, we were delighted to be able to provide the convenience of a comprehensive nuclear medicine service at Batemans Bay. Rather than regard Bateman's Bay as a "remote site" we have been very busy this year planning, installing and commissioning a virtual private network between Batemans Bay and our other Southern Nuclear Imaging sites. This will facilitate many improvements to our service to you and your patient.

The proposed improvements include: the introduction of updated and **improved secure electronic document delivery** (introducing **ARGUS Connect**), improved collaborative and urgent reporting between our nuclear medicine physicians and most importantly, for all concerned, a commitment to providing access for our referrers to their **patient's scans and reports over the Web (WWW)**.

ARGUS Connect: What is it? How can it help you?

As many of you are aware, Argus Connect is a communication tool kit that runs on any computer alongside existing clinical software and provides safe, simple and secure transfer of clinical and patient data. Argus uses email as the transport mechanism for clinical document transfer, but overlays a range of security and reliability features that enhance email to become a safe mechanism for clinical use. Patient privacy and security is assured by use of PKI encryption, computer-to-computer interoperability is provided by the HL7 Standard message structure and additional mechanisms ensure that all documents are received reliably by the intended recipient.

The **Argus suite** (<http://www.argusconnect.com.au/content/argus-general-practitioners>)

(<http://www.argusconnect.com.au/content/argus-medical-specialists>) has been designed so that there are products that suit the whole range of professional health practices.

Put **more simply**, through ARGUS Connect we will be able to securely send (email) your **Batemans Bay Regional Nuclear Imaging reports** to your practice where you can seamlessly import them into your patients' files within your practice management system. This may be **Medical Director** or any one of the

other systems available. When you open your patient's file you will have the report immediately available to view.

This opens up another potential opportunity. Either from a link within the patient's specific report or simply by providing direct access to your personal folder (once set up) on our server, we hope to provide 24/7 Web Based access to your patient's images. We are hoping to recruit a number of referrers to test out the available options for our proposed electronic document viewing (and if desired image delivery).

Direct Access to your Patient's Scans Electronically

A number of options are being explored to provide you and your colleague's simple, fast and user friendly access to digital copies of patients' scans. We are aware of the increasing number of practices who are going "paperless" and some who prefer to be "filmless". We anticipate that eventually everyone will see the benefits of easily accessed and stored e-film. With our proposal, we predict that it will not be necessary to download any data to your workstation. We anticipate that you will be able to view the images either as jpegs (savescreens [pictures] which are exactly the same as the film or paper hardcopy) or AVI's (the same as the current coloured laminated paper version yet a controllable "movie" version) directly from our server. Examples of movie (AVI's) displays could be your patient's Gated Heart Pool Scan or even the comparison or quantification displays of the myocardial perfusion scans. This will bring the images to life; something impossible with hard copy.

Myocardial Perfusion Scanning: Results pages.

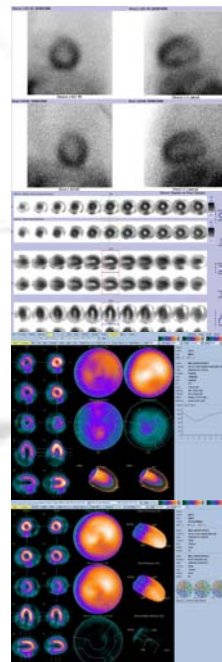
When you receive your myocardial perfusion scan reports and images you may find the amount of information a little overwhelming. For example, you will find:

1. B&W Planar Images comparing **Stress with Rest** Tracer distribution (demonstrating the Myocardial Perfusion) taken from 2-3 projections.
2. **Stress Rest** Comparison displays in colour and/or B&W
3. **Quantitative** analysis pages produced using the Cedar Sinai Medical Centre analysis program. This includes:
 - (a) Quantitative Gated (QGS) and
 - (b) Quantitative Perfusion (QPS) information.

The QGS display will include: Heart volume, End Diastolic Volume, End Systolic Volume and most importantly an Ejection Fraction (EF). This information is all taken from the Gated SPECT images. We are able to display the comparison displays and QGS as cines (movies). This provides additional information regarding wall motion

and wall thickening. When e-film or our version of electronic image delivery, becomes available we should be able to supply this information through web based viewing.

The QPS provides graphical and numerical information comparing the stress and rest studies and the comparative myocardial perfusion. Volumes, total area, defect size and extent are compared from rest to stress to demonstrate evidence of stress induced ischemia.



Information for You and Your Patient

The Australian and New Zealand Association of Physicians in Nuclear Medicine have produced two brochures aimed at demystifying nuclear medicine for the patient and providing a concise and up-to-date guide to referrers. We will attempt to ensure that these are freely available to all. Meanwhile, have a look at www.snig.com.au and locate .pdf versions of the documents.

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