

Histology Internal Test e-Order Using Microsoft Access - say "bye' to paper order



Kuick Chik Hong Ong Yee Eng Fadhillah Ami Dr Kenneth Chang TE

Aim

The objective is to improve the internal test ordering procedure in the histopathology laboratory so as to increase efficiency, reduce wastage of paper, and improve the turnaround time for the issuing of histopathology reports.

Methodology

Our paperless online ordering system is essentially a customized modification of an existing commercially available software programme (Microsoft Access). The programme is exclusively created by KKH staff and accessible to twelve pathologists through a shared server. A simple order menu has been created to reflect all stains that are available in-house. Pathologists simply submit order by a few clicks.



Results

This paperless on-line method of test ordering processed around 5000 orders from July 2013 to March 2014. This has translated a **savings of 5000 slips of papers** equivalent to several reams of paper. The 5 minutes' time required to hand-deliver the slips of paper translate **to savings of many hours of pathologists' time**. Besides, with the standard naming of tests on the test menu, there is **no more confusion** in recognizing the style of writing by different pathologists. All orders are now easier to check and trace since all records are saved in the system.

Conclusion

This is a highly innovative project leveraging on existing commercially software which has been customized to meet the needs of the pathology internal test ordering system. This project has resulted in cost savings and has improved workflow procedures and increased efficiencies and time savings in the Histopathology work flow.

guessing game from the scribbling handwritten order.

