

Yorkshire Imaging Collaborative – Xero Image Viewer.



The Yorkshire Imaging Collaborative (YIC) has now successfully deployed new image viewing software, 'Xero', at 7 of our member trusts. Although many clinicians have fed back how useful the software is, especially as we begin to restart services, we know that some clinicians are still unaware of some of the new features released in April in response to Covid-19. This FAQ sheet aims to clarify exactly what the software is and how it can help any service across our hospitals that requires access to Images and Reports from Radiology.

What is XEN / Xero?

'Xero' is a viewing software that comes with the Agfa EI PACS, which most YIC trusts have now migrated to. It allows for images acquired at other YIC connected trusts to be viewed (read only access) at your home trust.

Why is this helpful?

Previously, if you wanted to know the full imaging history of the patient, you would need to first ask the patient if they had had any previous imaging, before requesting access to that image via the IEP. This could take hours, days, and in some cases the image would not support the current diagnosis, making the task of acquiring the image pointless (and costly!).

Xero allows instant access to an image, without having to ask the patient if they have had previous imaging or the acquiring trust for permission to access the scan.

So who does this benefit?

In short, a lot of people!

- Patients - less time waiting for diagnosis, in some cases a more accurate diagnosis, with less visits to hospitals for imaging (and less radiation exposure!)
- Staff - time is not taken up requesting images via the IEP or CD/floppy disc, so more time can be spent with the patient and on diagnosis. Images contribute to more accurate and speedy diagnosis.

N.B. - XEN/ Xero is available for all modalities that use the Agfa EI PACS. This is not exclusive to radiology!

- MDTs - instant access to a patient's previous images to inform a more accurate and effective MDT meeting.
- Trusts - money is saved by reducing the need for IEP transfers across the connected trusts.

How does this software help the Covid-19 response?

- MDTs - more efficient when previous imaging is already available to support decision making.
- to support trusts to work through their acquisition backlogs.
- patients may not require further imaging as sufficient imaging may already be available via Xero.
- Accessibility of images across the connected sites enables cross site working, including for those staff currently shielding or working from home. Images can still be accessed via Xero (viewed in PC browser).

A case study...

"I've just been talking to someone from Medical Illustration in our team at CHFT. Historically, we store images from Medical Illustration on our PACS. LTHT do not use PACS in this same way, so when they request an image, we can't send any images across via the IEP. Instead Medical Illustration have to put their images on a disc and send them over to LTHT. Now we have the XEN they won't need to do that.

"We also used to send images back and forth for the Head & Neck MDT but we are no longer doing this either as the MDT are using XEN in their sessions."

- Sarah, PACS Team Lead, Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Foundation trust