

Siemens supports AXrEM's calls for deeper analysis of return on capital investment

Technology an enabler to improve productivity and outcomes

AXrEM, the Association of Healthcare Technology Providers for Imaging, Radiotherapy and Care, has called for the NHS to drill deeper into the long-term financial and operational returns delivered from capital equipment investment. Executive member Siemens Healthcare supports the message outreach to imaging professionals, healthcare policy makers and wider health business managers and is ready aligned to support the vision.

The AXrEM paper, "The relationship between investment in advanced imaging technology, better disease prevention and a leaner, more cost effective NHS¹", highlights solutions that can reduce costs, transform patient care and deliver tangible improvements in operational performance via the investment in imaging technologies. It calls for caution on a slash and burn attitude to reducing capital investment in a bid to solve financial investment pressures, and encourages the health community to remain focused on the long-term return of imaging innovation. It acknowledges that capital for the implementation of new technologies is a challenge but urges for openness in embracing ways of realising innovation such as Managed Equipment Service (MES) contracts.

"The AXrEM paper supports the rationale for continued investment in imaging technologies to reduce overall healthcare expenditure by being a precursor to leaner and more effective care pathways. By identifying or diagnosing conditions earlier in the patient journey, the ultimate direct and indirect costs of the health episode can be significantly reduced. Quite apart from realising an improved outcome for the patient, this makes clear economic sense by reducing or avoiding the increased treatment and rehabilitation costs often associated with managing the later stage of a chronic condition. Wider economic savings can extend to reduced social care costs associated with disability and chronic conditions and to reductions in lost workforce productivity," said Peter Harrison, Director of Sales and Solutions at Siemens Healthcare.

Drawing on evidence of health economics from a variety of studies (within and outside the UK), the AXrEM paper cites one US study which asserts that one dollar spent on diagnostic imaging manifests a three dollars saving.

“It is vital that we continue to invest in advanced imaging technologies to improve healthcare outcomes and to enable realisation of improved efficiencies within the NHS. The report highlights a range of areas where such investment in innovation can yield financial and operational savings and justify continued investment in the current economic climate,” continues Peter Harrison. “Internally, Siemens continues to maintain considerable investment in research and development, acknowledging the return on investment. The same arguments apply within the NHS, where innovation will be the key to unlock enhanced quality and productivity gains, and this is central to fulfilment of the NHS QIPP agenda. Siemens is committed to working with our NHS colleagues to realise these benefits.”