

## One wife, 6 kids and 120 cardiac patients per day.

*How Phil Hemstreet, M.D. maintains a thriving nuclear practice and a happy nuclear family.*

### The Lone Reader

Phil Hemstreet is, at present, the only trained, authorized nuclear cardiologist at Cardiology Consultants of Tuscaloosa, a full-service interventional practice that began full-time nuclear imaging in August '07 with the purchase of a GE camera/Xeleris system.

It's a very busy practice – they see an average of 120 patients per day. As the lone reader of nuclear studies, Dr. Hemstreet found himself tied to a 14-hour workday in order to keep up with the imaging workflow.

***Here's the story of his search for a solution to this quality of life issue familiar to so many of today's physicians.***

### The Problem

Physician Workload – “I work exceedingly long hours away from home. My typical day starts at 5 o'clock in the morning and ends at somewhere around 6 or 7 at night.”

### The Need

“We needed to find a way I could read and be at home. I have 6 children, and the need to be at home in body and spirit is a pressing concern for my family.”

### The Solution

“Syntermed Live allowed us to do that. It really was the best product we could find in terms of maintaining quality of images and work that we needed to become ICANL-certified, and to allow us to maintain the workflow we had established.”

### Challenges

“I cannot impress upon you enough that the quality of images and the data has to be sufficient.”

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### What is Syntermed Live?

Syntermed Live is a new web-enabled system for remote review and archiving of nuclear cardiology studies generated by the Emory Cardiac Toolbox. There's no other solution quite like it.



It's a low-cost, high impact tool for a growing, workload-challenged nuclear practice. In fact, over 1,000 studies are processed a week with the Syntermed Live system, by the growing number of nuclear cardiology labs improving productivity and workflow through remote reading.

- Easy, secure, interpretation of studies from any PC or Mac -- at home, satellite office, anywhere with access to the Internet
- This is not PACS. It's moving, interactive, full-function remote reading.
- No clunky LAN or remote login VPN network required. Just ordinary high-speed Internet.
- Low-cost, simple to implement, easy to learn, works right in with your workflow
- Secure, high quality images – interpretation as accurate and precise as your nuclear lab

*(How does Syntermed Live work? See next page.)*

**"It basically has added 2 hours of quality home time to my day as opposed to being tied to the office."** - Phil Hemstreet, M.D., Cardiology Consultants

## Benefits

"Syntermed Live has made me a much more... well, they say if Mom ain't happy, ain't nobody happy – my wife is exceedingly happy, which makes my life easier and still allows us to have the throughput to keep the cameras rolling, which is essential.

"It basically has added 2 hours of quality home time to my day as opposed to being tied to office. Over a week, a month, year, that's a substantial amount of time.

"We're able to have same-day turnaround on week-day reports, and 2-day turnaround over the week-end... I don't think this solution could be any better."

## Other Problems Solved

Workstation traffic jam – "We now operate 2 cameras but originally we had one, and one workstation. The issue was: How can I read if the technologist is processing?" Syntermed Live allowed easy, distributed access to the data in-office or off-site without interrupting the technologist at the workstation.

Storage space and cost – "To be able to store images and have them available for comparison initially isn't a big problem, but you don't realize how much space these things take up, and you find out how much it's gonna cost to store 40 images a week for 10 years. It gets to be something you have to think about.

"(Syntermed Live) was all-encompassing and seems to have been meeting our needs very well to this point."

## The Bottom Line

"We're very pleased. Anything I can do to accomplish my workload and spend more time with my family makes me happy. Syntermed Live has done an excellent job of giving me back some of my time. When I look back 25 years from now I'll be very appreciative of that."

## How does Syntermed Live work?

Once a nuclear study is processed, you just click Save to do an automatic Toolbox Upload. All of the images and diagnostic information from Emory Toolbox™ are automatically uploaded to the Syntermed Live server, and the studies are ready to be interpreted by the reading physician.

**There are 2 simple ways to read a study *Live*.**

### Live with Toolbox

- The 3Mb review file is uploaded to the server
- The reading physician logs on and downloads the review file to their PC
- The physician opens the review file with the Toolbox Viewer, which allows full Toolbox capability.

### Live with Browser

- Toolbox software is not required on reading physician's PC
- The reading physician opens the patient study on their Internet browser, which provides ample capability to make an interpretation, including rotating raw data for quality control, un-gated and gated slices, polar maps, ejection fraction and more.

