Release Notes

VistA Innovations I 873

# Release Features

## Overview

VistA innovation I 873 has the goals of completing the features introduced in MAG\*3.0\*138 supporting the anatomic pathology VistA features. These include managing the workflow between referrals and consults, and reporting functions between the interacting sites. The additional features included improvements and extensions of existing functionality.

## Integration of Whole Slide Imaging or Robotics Digital Pathology Systems

The integration of the digital pathology systems requires the integration of the ordering and acquisition workflows, and the integration of the image viewing capabilities provided by the digital pathology system. This is accomplished by sending standardized order information to the digital pathology system via HL7 and DICOM messaging. The viewing is accomplished by launching the vendor specific viewing application form the pathology worklist applications. This approach is selected to overcome the lack of implementation of standard image formats, which prevents the adaptation of a vendor agnostic viewing solution.

## Pathology Worklist Improvements

These features were developed to include additional information into the incoming and outgoing message streams to support collaboration between the referral and consulting sites.

## Centralized Pathology Worklists

The worklists implemented for supporting tele-medicine application in pathology improves the workflow between sites by:

* Displaying unread cases from all for which a consulting site is configured to provide interpretative service, or consultations
* Allowing a referral site to request consultation from a configured list of consulting sites
* Providing access to report editing
* Searching, organizing and sorting cases

## Report Editor

An editor is provided to allow the entering and editing of the main and supplementary reports. The report editor adheres to the established business rules and report formats currently present in the VistA Anatomic Pathology roll and scroll application. The report editor provides a convenient GUI framework for manual and voice entry of the common, and configurable sections of the report. The report editor checks if all designated required fields contain data before allowing the status changes to the report.

The report editor provides controls for progressing the report status through the reporting workflow. The report editor implements locking to prevent pathologists and technologists colliding and overwriting each other’s work.

## Telepathology Configurator

The telepathology configurator allows the sites to setup:

* The inclusion, the order, and the required designation of the report sections defined in the VistA Anatomic Pathology Reports
* The assignment of sites that can perform interpretative work and consultations for the local site
* The assignment of the sites for which the local site performs consultation or interpretative services
* The creation, update, edit and deletion of the site configuration

## Report Coding

In addition to entering and editing the text portion of the reports the application implements controls to aid the medical coding of the reports. The currently supported coding schemes are:

* Current Procedural Terminology (CPT)
* Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine-Clinical Terms (SNOMED-CT) codes associated with a report.

## Consultative Service Support

A number of features under this category improve the consultant’s ability to manage work:

* Controls are provided to request, recall, complete or decline a consultation
* The Telepathology Worklist displays the consultation status
* When a consultation is requested for a patient that is not registered in the consultation site’s a message requesting the patient be registered at the consulting site is sent to an administrative email address
* Additional controls are implemented to assist the consultant to enter and complete the supplementary reports containing the results of the consult

# Fixes

The following detailed spreadsheet contain all tasks performed under the VistA Innovation I 873 task. Some of the items were fixes to previously implemented code, due to the fact, that most of the code was not part of a released patch the fixes cannot be qualified as bug fixes, but rather changes to unreleased code.



# Known Issues and Problems

An extension to VistA Innovation I 873 was granted to address the following open issues:

## Workload credits at the referral and consulting sites

The solution needs to be extended to create encounter entries in VistA to trigger workload accounting at both referral and consulting sites.

## Auto accessioning at the consulting site

The Consulting pathologists SMEs requested that a copy of the consultants report is stored at the consulting site for future uses.

## Automatic synchronization of reports at the sites

The reports entered at either sites need to be synchronized in the event of changes or addendums.

## Explore automating registration of patients at the consulting site

Future work is targeted to identify features that allow the entry of a patient into a consulting site’s database. Other non-technical aspects of this issue have to be investigated in order to come to a recommended solution.

## Explore of integration other telepathology vendors

Ongoing discussions with other digital pathology vendors will direct this effort.