

NDSC, ESR Partner to Deliver ESR iGuide Across Europe



National Decision Support Company (NDSC) has teamed up with the European Society of Radiology (ESR) to deliver appropriate use criteria to the European market via ESR iGuide. Through this partnership, the ESR will leverage NDSC's expertise in delivering electronically consumable appropriate use criteria in the United States to deliver the same service to European countries.

During the European Congress of Radiology (ECR) 2014, the ESR announced its plan to develop Clinical Decision Support Guidelines for the European market. As part of this announcement, the ESR inked an agreement with the American College of Radiology (ACR) to leverage their experience in creating appropriate use criteria.

ESR experts will adapt ACR Select into imaging referral guidelines suited to the European market. ACR Select, which is also provided by NDSC, is the complete web service version of ACR Appropriateness Criteria® (AC). ACR AC is a comprehensive national standards clinical decision support database that provides evidence-based decision support for the appropriate use of all medical imaging procedures.

NDSC will act as the licensing agent for ESR iGuide across all European countries and be responsible for managing content delivery. In addition, the ESR will rely on NDSC's content delivery capabilities to localise the criteria based on regional and institutional needs, such as the availability of imaging equipment.

"We're excited about the opportunity to expand our presence into Europe," said Michael Mardini, CEO at NDSC. "This relationship is directly in line with our strategy to deliver actionable, national standard content and we are pleased to have earned the trust of the ESR."

NDSC's agreement with the ESR further builds on the company's recent successful rollout of ACR Select at the Hospital Clinic of Barcelona in Spain, where appropriate use criteria were translated into Spanish and integrated with the hospital's electronic health record (EHR).

"For over a year we have been testing ACR Select in Spain with positive results," according to Professor Lluís Donoso Bach, PhD, Director of the Diagnostic Imaging Centre, Hospital Clinic of Barcelona and ESR 1st Vice-President. "The agreement between the ACR and NDSC enables us to develop Europe-wide criteria without reinventing appropriate use criteria and lets us leverage NDSC's vast experience."

The official launch of ESR iGuide is planned for the ECR 2015 in Vienna, Austria, which will run from 4 to 8 March 2015. NDSC will be presenting its accomplishments and latest projects at RSNA 2014, booth #5504, 30 November – 4 December 2014, Chicago (IL, USA).

NDSC is the exclusive distributor of national standards clinical decision support (CDS) imaging guidelines. The company provides the technical platform, support, and licensing of digitally consumable CDS that continuously educates providers regarding the latest evidence-based approach to medicine without disrupting the doctor-patient relationship or delaying needed care.

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