



Project Background for the Wendy Fitzwilliam Paediatric Hospital, Trinidad, West Indies.

This hospital is administratively under the Dept. of Radiology of the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Centre (EWMSC)

CONTACT:

Dr Paramanand Maharaj, Lecturer in Radiology, Department of Clinical Medical Sciences, Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies, St Augustine , Trinidad and Tobago.

Dr Maharaj is the Head of the DM Radiology Programme. He has clinical appointment with the Department of Radiology of the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Centre (EWMSC) which is under the North Central Regional Health Authority (NCRHA) and also serves as the coordinator for paediatric images being referred from the Wendy Fitzwilliam Paediatric Hospital, which is administratively under the EWMSC.

ADDRESS:

Wendy Fitzwilliam Paediatric Hospital
Building 5
Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex
Uriah Butler Highway
Champs Fleurs
Trinidad, West Indies
Tel. (868) 645-2640 Ext. 2283

1. Is the hospital a private or MoH facility? How does it fit into the national health system?

The hospital is part of the National Health system managed by a local Regional health Authority whose Board is appointed by the Minister of health. It is the only paediatric hospital serving 2 regions (out of 5) and is also the tertiary referral center for the RHAs.

2. What are the facility's future plans for meeting imaging needs?

The Wendy Fitzwilliam paediatric hospital will continue to source imaging needs from the adult hospital based at the same site, as a new dedicated National Children's hospital is at present being constructed and will offer all dedicated paediatric imaging modalities.

3. How many pediatric beds does the hospital offer, what is the patient load?

The paediatric hospital has 275 beds shared between the paediatric medical and surgical teams. A 15 bed oncology unit and a 4 bed paediatric intensive unit are also part of that number.

The neonatal ICU is housed at the Women's hospital which is a separate building within the campus of the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex (EWMSC) .

4. Staffing: what radiology teams are in place? What has their training entailed? Future training options? Any particular constraints?

Seven qualified general radiologists and seven trainees constitute the radiology team of the NCRHA. The trainees are enrolled in a 4 year post graduate programme leading to a doctor of medicine (DM) degree and since 2003 these graduates have been employed at all the RHAs, increasing the total complement of qualified radiologists in the country from 10 in 1991 to 25 at present. One severe constraint is related to lack of a formal arrangement between the University of the West Indies and the RHA.

5. Is patient care affordable? (fee system?)

(Internet search for the Govt of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago: "Healthcare is provided free of charge to all children under 16 years of age in Trinidad and Tobago, including non-nationals. This includes every type of healthcare, from vaccination to surgery to intensive care").

The Google comment is accurate regarding free healthcare however may tertiary services need improvement resulting in many private hospitals flourishing due to long waiting times.

6. Is the hospital infrastructure robust? Power? Internet – band width, server reliability?

The EWMSC was built in 1986 and became fully functional in the early 90s on a fee for service basis and then free of charge to patients in 2005, with minimal structural improvements. The PACS (Siemens) Syngo was installed in 2009 with no upgrades and will soon exhaust present storage capacity. There is no internet access to the PACS or for the Radiologists in the department. There are plans to upgrade the present system.

7. Are supply lines secured for medical materials and spare parts?

Yes, our 16 slice CT is 9 years old and still functioning.

8. Is equipment sufficiently maintained?

Yes

Tele-reporting

1. Are there existing active sites imaging children?

Paediatric CTs and Sonography are performed in the main Radiology dept of the EWMSC. There is a plain radiographic unit in the paediatric emergency dept of the Wendy Fitzwilliam paediatric hospital, which is connected to the main radiology dept by a corridor.

2. Are these sites digital?

yes

3. Is there a telereporting system already in place?

No

Project coordination

Who would be the on-site coordinator?

Dr Paramanand Maharaj

[He produces films for tele-opinions, identifies needs, works with WFPI on improving systems and support, assists with audits and reporting, collaborates with the WFPI on research and publication and provides answers to practical and strategic questions about the facility/work.]

For WFPI to fill in: Who would be the WFPI administrator?

[He/she supervises the project, maintains dialogue with the on-site team, ensures quality control, audits & reports, liaises with other WFPI coordinators on improvements to systems and support, looks for/steers opportunities for research and publication and may need to run the volunteer telereporting team. NB WFPI volunteers can operate with known platforms (e.g. MSF) over which the WFPI has access and oversight. Otherwise they must be managed directly by the WFPI unless express, fully informed permission is given to the contrary.]

DR. RAMON SANCHEZ

Legal caveat

The WFPI only gives advice via it's tele-reporting work. We offer medical colleagues working at the patient's bedside an opinion which he/she can use (or not) as he/she thinks fit. The legal responsibility for the patient remains with the onsite colleague.