

Linking Patients – Creating a Comprehensive Record-Timeline

Philips PACS allows multiple records at different organizations with different PID/MRN since many facilities interface their EMR/Ordering systems. This will create separate records on the same patient. Philips PACS will 'Auto-Link' these patients if the patient information is very similar. However, there will be instances that the patient information is unique enough that PACS will not Auto-Link.

In order to present a comprehensive exam record (Timeline) for the interpretation of current studies users may need to Link Patients to tie all records together to present the patients prior studies performed at other facilities.

The following document will outline the process of linking patients/records when they have not been Auto-Linked.

Finding Unlinked Records:

Unlinked/Solitary Record:



One Person

Linked Record:



Two Persons

Unlinked records will present as multiple line items with a solitary person symbol

Patient Name	
test, again	
	TEST, AGAIN
	TEST, AGAIN
	TEST, AGAIN

Each facility will have separate exam records

Patient Name	
test, again	
	TEST, AGAIN
	CR - XR Chest 1 View
	TEST, AGAIN
	CT - CTAAbdomen and Pelvis
	CT - CTAAbdomen and Pelvis
	CT - CT Abdomen Limited
	TEST, AGAIN
	CR - XR Abdomen 1 View
	CR - XR Chest Bedside

Linking Records:

Select two record lines (not exams) holding [Ctrl] button.

Right Click and select 'Link Patients'

Patient Name	MRN	Date of Birth	Organization
test, again			
	TEST, AGAIN	12/16/1954	RAPC
	TEST, AGAIN	12/16/1954	WVCI
	TEST, AGAIN	12/16/1954	OIC

Export via DICOM			
Create Patient			
Edit Patient			
Delete Patient			
Link Patients			

You cannot link more than two records at one time

The “Link Patients” confirmation dialog will appear.

Validate you have selected the correct patients then click the ‘Link Patients’ button

The two records will be linked and the ‘Double Persons’ icon will be at the beginning of the line:

Patient Name	
test, again	

Link Patients

Please review the information for the two patient records you wish to link and make sure that they belong to the same person. You can always unlink the patient records if you make a mistake.

Selected Patient Information	
Patient Record 1	Patient Record 2
Organization: RAPC	WVCI
MRN: 632414	632414
Last Name: TEST	TEST
First Name: AGAIN	AGAIN
Middle Name:	
Sex: F	F
Date of Birth: 12/16/1954	12/16/1954
Social Security Number: 572275549	572275549
Mother's Maiden Name:	
Phone Number (Work):	
Phone Number (Home):	
Email Address:	
Title:	
Suffix:	
Alias First Name:	
Alias Middle Name:	
Alias Last Name:	
Address: 1234 SOMEWHERE ST APT 20 STERLING HEIGHTS, Michigan 48312 UNITED STATES	1234 SOMEWHERE ST APT 20 STERLING HEIGHTS, Michigan 48312 UNITED STATES

Link Patients Cancel

Linking Additional Records:

As with this example, there can be more than two records that could be linked. Selecting the records to be linked is a little different, but the latter steps to link are the same.

Select the unlinked record and one of the linked records nested under the “Master Record Line”. Do not select the “Master Record Line”

Correct:

Patient Name	MRN	Date of Birth	Organization
test, again			
TEST, AGAIN		16/1954	OIC
TEST, AGAIN		16/1954	RAPC
TEST, AGAIN		16/1954	RAPC
TEST, AGAIN		16/1954	WVCI

Incorrect:

Patient Name	MRN	Date of Birth	Organization
test, again			
TEST, AGAIN		954	OIC
TEST, AGAIN		954	RAPC
TEST, AGAIN		954	RAPC
TEST, AGAIN		954	WVCI

Right click on one of the selected items and select ‘Link Patients’. In the ‘Link Patients’ dialog, validate the patients/records and click the ‘Link Patients’ button

How records should look:

One “Master Record Line”:

Patient Name
test, again
TEST, AGAIN

Records for organizations under the “Master Record” line:

Patient Name	MRN	Date of Birth	Organization
test, again			
TEST, AGAIN			RAPC
TEST, AGAIN	632414	12/16/1954	RAPC
TEST, AGAIN	632414	12/16/1954	WVCI
TEST, AGAIN	632414	12/16/1954	OIC