The path to an efficient cardiology practice can be complicated.

Departments are often siloed. Subspecialties speak their own languages, face their own unique challenges and more often than not, use different cardio systems – even different vendors – to do their work.

The results are predictable: competing software priorities, obstacles to communication, inefficient workflow, conflicting priorities, and a steady undercurrent of frustration.

But there can be a better way.
The power of consolidation

A more unified approach to cardiology IT is not only possible, but desirable, resulting in:

- A leaner and more efficient department
- Fewer vendors to manage and coordinate
- Less downtime during maintenance/upgrades (as a single vendor can better coordinate efforts)
- A single point of contact for IT support
- Enhanced interoperability allowing subspecialties to “talk” to one another
- Ease of integration with other enterprise systems such as EMR

However, what’s possible isn’t always simple. Upgrading and amalgamating cardiology systems requires input, consultation and consensus from a host of stakeholders.
So where to start? How can you consolidate your cardiology solutions without sacrificing your specialties? Here are a few questions to consider.

**Reporting**

- Does your current cardiology solution make reporting simple and fast?
- Is accuracy a concern?
- Reporting is different for nuclear vs. pediatric vs. cath lab. Are your cardiologists, sonographers and technicians truly getting what they need?

**Subspecialties**

- How many subspecialties are in your cardiology department?
- What are their unique challenges? (If you don’t know, now is the time to ask).
- What are their current frustrations and what would it take to address them?

**Interoperability**

- How many cardiology solutions do you currently employ?
- How well do the current solutions “play” with others: Do they interface and integrate effectively?
- Is it easy to exchange reports, images, and other patient information or are multiple products & vendors getting in the way?

**Workflow**

- Where are the process or reporting bottlenecks?
- Is there the capacity to effectively track tasks and progress within specialties and across the department as a whole?
- What is preventing the department from working more efficiently?

**Access**

- Are system tools accessible where and when your cardiologists need them?
- Is the hand off of patient information seamless or is work being duplicated and/or questioned?

There’s no denying it: change is hard, and making big decisions can be stressful. However, when armed with the right information, making the best choice for your cardiology department can be a game changer for your facility, your physicians, and your patients.

Merge Cardio has been a Best in KLAS winner for three consecutive years. Our industry-leading solution is strategically designed to enhance the performance of cardiology departments as a whole while addressing the unique needs of the subspecialties within. To learn more about how Merge Cardio can transform your cardiology practice, click on the subspecialty links below, contact us at 877.446.3743 or visit merge.com/cardio.

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