



EMORY
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE

Work from Home, Compensation, and Volumes for Afterhours Diagnostic Radiology in the United States



MICHIGAN MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Jessica Cristiu, BS,¹ Suzanne T. Chong, MD, MS,² Francisco Delgado, BS,³ Tarek N. Hanna, MD,³ Thomas Ptak, MD, PhD, MPH,⁴ Mary Jo Tarrant, MBA,⁵ Dominick Parrish,⁵ Eric Friedberg, MD,³ Eric M. Rubin, MD,⁶ Mark Alson, MD⁷

¹University of Michigan School of Medicine, Ann Arbor MI, USA
²Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN, USA
³Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, USA
⁴University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA
⁵American College of Radiology, Reston, VA, USA
⁶Crozer-Chester Medical Center, Upland, PA, USA
⁷Sierra Imaging Associates Sierra Imaging Associates Fresno, CA, USA

INTRODUCTION

- Over the past two decades, the workload and the proportion of studies being completed outside of traditional working hours have increased.
- CPT* and RVU* codes do not adequately capture the time, effort, and physiologic impact associated with afterhours radiology coverage.
- We aimed to gain a better understanding of perceptions of work from home, compensation, and volumes for afterhours diagnostic radiology in the United States.

METHODS

- The American College of Radiology (ACR) 2022 membership tracking study was modified to include specific questions regarding afterhours coverage.
- Afterhours shifts were defined, recognizing slight variations in end times.

Shift Categories	End Time
Evening	<12:00am
Late Evening	≥12:00-2:00am
Overnight	>2:00am

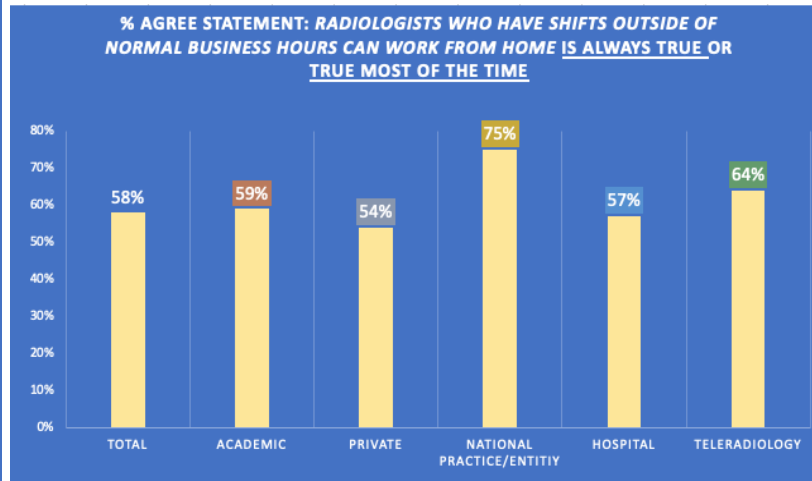
SELECT REFERENCES

- Hanna TN, Steenburg SD, Rosenkrantz AB, et al. Emerging challenges and opportunities in the evolution of teleradiology. Am J Roentgen 2020; 215: 1411-1416.
- Chong ST, Robinson JD, Davis MA, et al. Emergency radiology: current challenges and preparing for continued growth. J Am Coll Radiol 2019; 16: 1447-1455.
- Rohatgi S, Hanna TN, Sliker CW, Abbott RM, Nicola R. Afterhours radiology: challenges and strategies for the radiologist. Am J Roentgen 2015; 205: 956-961.
- Hanna TN, Johnson JO. The night relative value unit: a weighted relative value unit to equate day and night interpretations. J Am Coll Radiol 2016; 13: 873-874.

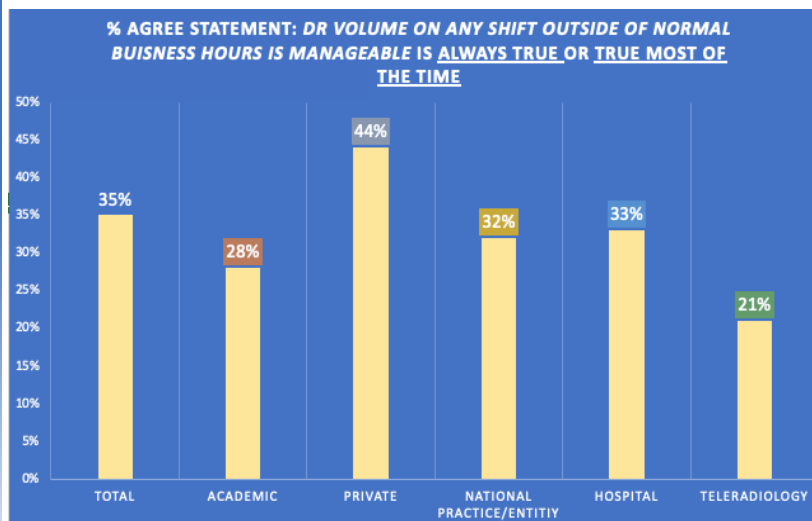
*CPT= Current Procedural Terminology, RVU= Relative Value Unit

RESULTS

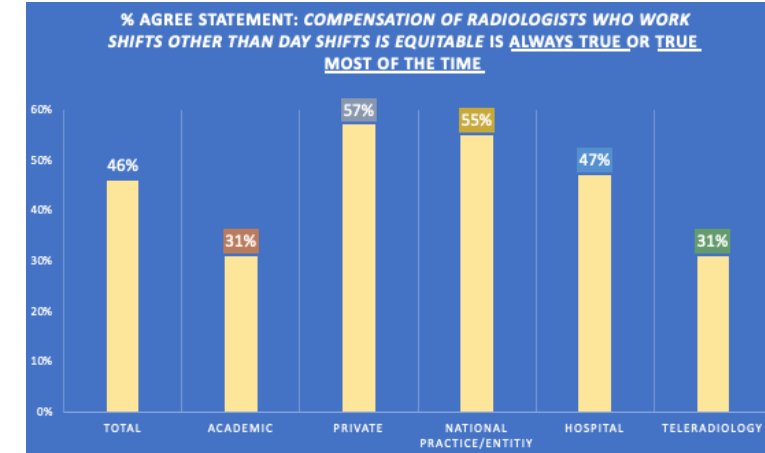
N=1109 practicing radiologists responded to the survey



- Those practicing in a **National Practice** are **significantly more likely** than those in a Hospital, Private Practice, or Academic setting **to agree that radiologists can work from home outside of normal business hours** (74% vs. 57%, 54%, and 59%, respectively, $p < 0.05$).



- Approximately 1/3 of respondents (35%) believe that diagnostic radiology volumes on any shift outside of normal business hours are manageable.
- Respondents working in Private Practice are more likely than those in Academics to find afterhours volumes manageable (44% vs. 28%, $p < 0.05$).
- The majority of respondents find afterhours work unmanageable.**



- Nearly half** of respondents (46%) agreed compensation for afterhours work is equitable
- Those in **Academics** are **significantly less likely** than those in Private Practice or a National Practice entity **to believe compensation is equitable** (31% vs. 57% and 55%, respectively, $p < 0.05$)

CONCLUSIONS

- Understanding perceptions towards afterhours work from home, compensation, and diagnostic radiology imaging volumes will help practice leaders when making management decisions that impact recruitment and retention.**
- The majority perception that afterhours volumes are unmanageable deserves further exploration, including impact on radiologist wellness and sustainability.**