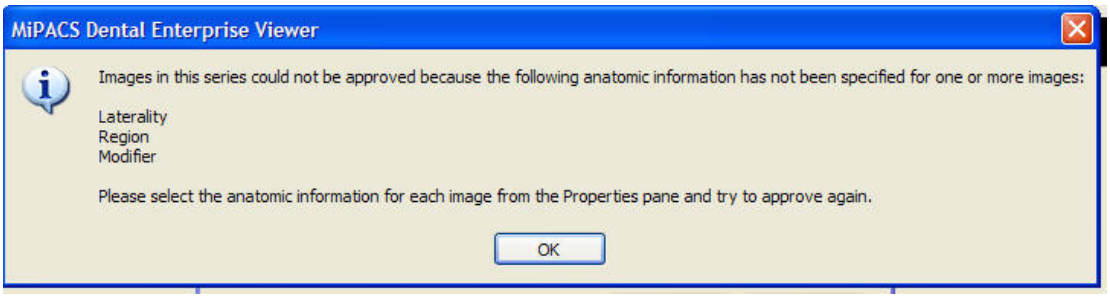
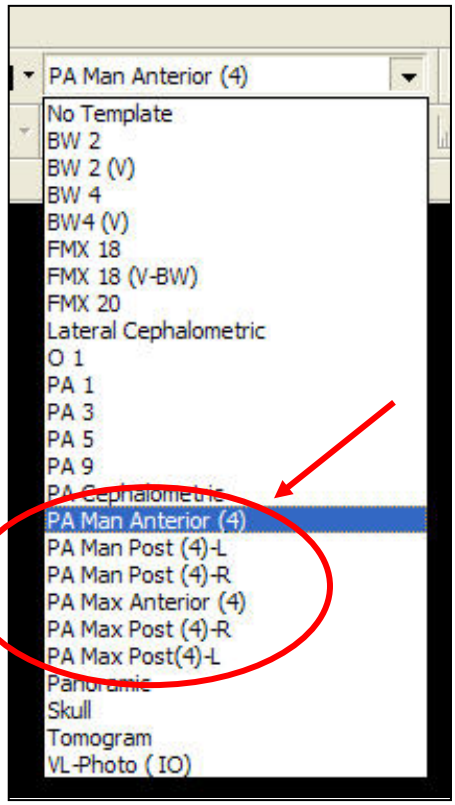
Approving & Saving Periapical Radiographs in MiPACS ─ A More Efficient Approach (09/09)

Question: When I approve and save periapical radiographs in MiPACS, the program requires the annotation of the anatomical area in the radiograph. The program allows the selection of the tooth number (good) but then proceeds to require three additional and redundant inputs: Region, Modifier and Laterality. When tooth #14 is selected, the program should automatically input maxillary, left, and molar rather than requiring those extra time-consuming steps. Admittedly those extra steps may not take very long in and of themselves, but when added to a very busy day, already running behind, typing the record myself, making the appointment myself (while my assistant is turning over the room) it becomes quite an irritant. When multiple periapical radiographs are taken….well, you get the picture. Is there an easier method to approve periapical radiographs?



Answer: The anatomical areas that you mention (region, modifier and laterality) must be specified for each radiograph for digital images to be DICOM* compatible. Unfortunately at this time, MiPACS does not automatically link a specific tooth number with this anatomical information. However, "**anatomically identified PA templates**" should have been included with the initial installation of software at your facility. Six templates identified by region are available (maxilla vs. mandible; anterior vs. posterior; left vs. right). The image to the right highlights the location of these templates within the selection window in MiPACS. Initially choosing one of these templates eliminates the need to enter additional anatomical data. Medicor™ Imaging has supplied a PowerPoint entitled "Proper PA Template Selection" which can be used to educate and review this topic with staff members. This presentation also outlines procedures to install these templates if missing from the selection window. (Click here to view the PowerPoint). This topic is a good example of a suggestion for improvement in the MiPACS software program that originates from an Air Force clinic. These suggestions are elevated to the DDRS CCB (Change Control Board) which interacts with the equipment and software vendors crucial to the quality and efficiency of our dental digital radiology solution.



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