GOOD MEDICINE

IMPACTING THE QUALITY AND COST OF CARE WITH SYSTEM-WIDE CHANGES

By Peter Tippett, M.D., Ph.D.
THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY is undergoing significant change and growth, due in large part to innovations in health information technology.

All of this urgency and activity surrounding I.T. in healthcare has delivered point solutions that are improving quality of care, but also introduce more complexity.

As applications are made increasingly safe, secure, and compliant, health information systems are becoming ever more costly, complex, and difficult to integrate. As a result, many physicians are reporting that their productivity actually goes down, not up, when health information technology is introduced.

And this increased complexity and decreased productivity is contributing to the most pressing challenge in healthcare today: reducing the cost of care without decreasing quality. For technology to truly be a differentiator in the healthcare industry, it must be utilized to help reduce the cost of healthcare, as well as improve the quality of care.

In fact, 57% of America’s physicians have already adopted electronic medical records, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Advances in connected medical devices, telehealth, and remote patient monitoring are beginning to change the interface between doctor and patient.

At 16% of the U.S. GDP, current healthcare expenditures are unsustainable.
A PLATFORM FOR SUCCESS.
THE TECHNOLOGY PROBLEMS FACING THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY MUST BE ADDRESSED HOLISTICALLY, NOT THROUGH THE POINT SOLUTIONS THAT ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED TODAY.

The quantity of digitized medical information is rising exponentially, but most systems still can’t talk to each other, largely due to licensing and security issues. Improving the quality of care—while also reducing the cost—will require scalable, networked solutions, delivered on integrated cloud, mobility, machine-to-machine (M2M), and security platforms.

WE HAVE TO EMPOWER INDIVIDUALS WITH INFORMATION.

Networked solutions and improved, secure communications will help transition the delivery of consultative healthcare from the doctor’s office into the home.

This will provide patients with the same seamless connectivity to their healthcare system as they enjoy in other aspects of their lives.
Networked solutions will also increase agility and innovation across the healthcare ecosystem.

For example, given the projected shortage of doctors in the coming years, traditional roles and responsibilities will likely change. Backed by information databases and on-call virtual oversight, nurses and trained technicians will be empowered to provide higher levels of consultative care.

Adopting a networked approach will also allow healthcare organizations to prepare for another likely development: using and sharing healthcare information beyond the United States' borders. With the right tools, caregivers around the world will have the ability to take advantage of new care models, and share best practices globally.

Consider these scenarios:

1. The ability to remotely monitor the biometrics and behavior of patients will improve the timely delivery of both preventative and emergency care. And that can help decrease both overall costs and the need for emergency care.

2. The consolidation and analysis of large amounts of treatment-based data will lead to the identification of effective and cost-efficient solutions for all kinds of diseases and health issues.

3. Treatments will no longer be based on a single doctor’s directive—physicians will have access to vast databases of information and proven modes of care.

4. Doctors will be able to tailor care programs for patients based on both personal health information and lifestyle data.

Solutions for more agile operations

Share best practices globally
WORKING FOR THE GREATER GOOD

THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF TECHNOLOGY PROVIDERS WORKING IN SMALL WAYS TO IMPROVE THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE. BUT THE INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE NEEDS TO START THINKING ABOUT THE SYSTEM HOLISTICALLY, DEVELOPING SOLUTIONS THAT ENCOMPASS:

- How healthcare is delivered today.
- The care patients will demand in the near future.
- The reality of a secure, uniform technology environment that increases productivity, reduces costs, and improves the quality of care.

GIVING PATIENTS RELIABLE, SECURE, AND ANYTIME/ANYWHERE ACCESS AND CONTROL OVER THEIR HEALTHCARE CHOICES CAN IMPROVE QUALITY OF CARE AND REDUCE COSTS.

More important, changes that impact individuals collectively become changes for the good of the public. This important social benefit is there for the taking, for forward-looking companies ready to welcome the new future for healthcare IT.

THINK FORWARD.

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