

Healthcare Trends 2016

As we move into the 17th year of the 21st century, we see changes for the healthcare industry as it adapts to advances in technology, the rise of consumerism, and a focus on value. How will the industry change and how should you prepare for the future? Here we predict the top 6 trends for the upcoming year in healthcare and consider how you can chart your course.

Trend 1: Data Consolidation

The last few years have seen a huge increase in the consolidation of healthcare providers through mergers and acquisitions. More consolidation is likely as more organizations look to boost their competitive advantage and increase their revenues by managing and coordinating care across larger patient populations.

As these organizations come together, they bring with them years of data that require consolidation. The EMR will continue to do what it does best - consolidate the patient's structured clinical data. There will be increasing focus on the consolidation of unstructured data such as medical images, unstructured diagnostic reports and notes through the use of a vendor neutral archive as a central repository.

Trend 2: Interoperability - Communicate, Exchange, Share

In support of healthcare consolidation, interoperability will be the enabler to harness the power of data assets. Beyond health system consolidation, interoperability solutions will further drive the exchange and sharing of data across health systems. In a shifting age where high deductible health care plans are driving patients to shop around for healthcare procedures, there is a need for both patients and providers to support a transient healthcare record.

Use of standards are key to communicate information and exchange data between IT systems and organizations. Selecting solutions that use and promote standards ensure that your data remains pure and accessible.

Trend 3: Best-of-Breed Healthcare Ecosystem

With healthcare consolidation and data accessibility enabled through interoperability, institutions can leverage their technology investments and empower their clinical applications by building a best-of-breed healthcare ecosystem.

Built upon the foundation of an enterprise imaging platform to manage the data and workflow, clinicians have the flexibility to plug and play the appropriate apps to meet their needs now with extendability for future



"The best vision is insight."

Malcolm Forbes

functionality.

This deconstructed architecture works flexibly with solutions from other vendors and integrates with existing informatics systems like the EMR. The end result is a best-of-breed approach to patient care.

Trend 4: Healthcare Cloud

Over the past years we have seen much hype about the cloud and yet, the emergence of cloud hosted solutions in the healthcare space have not materialized.

We believe that the healthcare cloud has reached the tipping point and will grow to new heights for healthcare IT solutions in 2016 and beyond. Healthcare systems governance and policies that were absent for early adopters are now established and new zero footprint technologies are readily available. Gartner Inc. sees the cloud as becoming increasingly important to healthcare providers due to the increasing pressures to become more compliant and responsive to market changes while reducing or controlling costs.

The cloud is ready to support disaster recovery, host



**"I can't change the direction of the wind,
but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination."**

~Jimmy Dean

applications, share platforms, and complete diagnostic workflows inclusive of intelligent worklists, highly specialized viewers, and eventually predictive analytics/diagnosis. Using the cloud, healthcare organizations will be able to concentrate on their core competencies and enable technology solutions for the best patient care to a wide patient base.

Trend 5: 3D Printing

Over the course of just a year, 3D models based on CT, MRI, and ultrasound scans have outgrown their limited role in surgical planning to become an indispensable tool in the planning and delivery of healthcare. Gone are the days of sizing replacement knees and hips like trying on sizes of a shoe. 3D printing is on the rise to print more precise fits using materials such as titanium and more. In addition, assistive components such as surgical templates and masks will be more accurate and comfortable, and custom sized anatomical components that cannot be replaced today will become a reality.

The versatility of materials and applications makes the use of this technology limitless. The success of 3D printing technology relies on medical imaging. To prepare for this technology, an enterprise imaging solution is imperative. Make sure that your images are easily accessible and your solution easily scalable and that your images are accessible and ready to support this new up-and-coming technology.

Trend 6: Predictive and Prescriptive Analytics

There lies a tremendous opportunity to embrace the power of predictive and prescriptive analytics in healthcare to derive insights into improving patient care and workflow. Analytics isn't a new concept in radiology. But interest is being propelled by the transition from volume- to value-based care. Initially, predictive analytics will assist the specialist for decision support and assist specialists to produce the highest-quality service and value for referring physicians and patients.

Ultimately, in routine imaging procedures, predictive analytics will replace the need for a human to diagnose. Looking further out, analytics will leverage the power of Healthcare IT and a lifetime's worth of patient data to enable more personalized protocols and to advise referring physicians and patients on what steps to take next.

Set Your Sails

To support each and every one of these trends, you need the ability to capture and store data from disparate sources and make it accessible to a wide variety of devices and applications. To further elevate your clinical capabilities, an intelligent enterprise imaging platform is the required technology backbone. The platform will leverage your existing technology infrastructure and enable best of breed solutions to enrich your clinical ecosystem and enhance patient care.

About Mach7 Technologies™

Mach7 Technologies is a global provider of enterprise image management solutions that allow healthcare enterprises to easily identify, connect and share diagnostic image and patient care intelligence where and when it is needed. Mach7's innovative communication and workflow technology delivers complete image management including rapid record identification, integration, synchronization and routing, advanced clinical viewing and optimized vendor-neutral archiving across the enterprise. Healthcare institutions around the world use Mach7 solutions for archiving, clinical productivity improvement, IT cost savings, health information exchange, meaningful use compliance, and improved patient data communication.

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