

3 Ways Healthcare CIOs are Breaking Down Interoperability Barriers

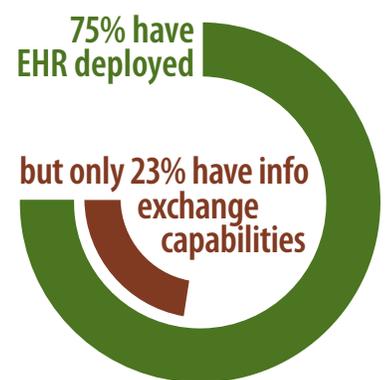
Real-time access to a complete patient record remains a significant healthcare hurdle. CIOs who are breaking down HIT integration, sharing, and interoperability barriers are consistently putting patient data on the front lines of care to reduce costs, improve diagnostic efficiency, comply with regulatory requirements, and meet key business goals for patient care and new payment structures.

Learn why the cloud, vendor neutralization, and consolidation planning are key.

According to a 2014 survey of leaders from accountable care organizations, interoperability was universally seen as the most significant obstacle to effectively using and recognizing the full potential of health IT.¹ The difficulty of connecting the care-data dots has been in navigating the complexities and limitations of proprietary systems, regulations, security, and bandwidth.

The Maturation Cycle of an EHR Must Include Interoperability

Nearly 75% of care delivery organizations have deployed an EHR, but only about 23% have information exchange capabilities enabling patient record capture, reference, and exchange.² EHRs can't stand still once deployed. They must continue to mature and facilitate broader interoperability to affect real change in care delivery. In today's on-demand, anywhere-anytime sharing and access world, providers demand seamlessly integrated, secure, and fully accessible healthcare data and CIOs are responding. This executive brief explores three ways that healthcare leaders are breaking down interoperability barriers to power the care conversation improving diagnostic efficiency, reducing costs, and strengthening broader care collaboration.



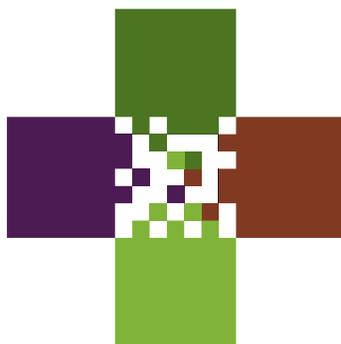
3 Ways Healthcare CIOs are Breaking Down Interoperability Barriers

What's driving the demand for integrated data and how does healthcare keep pace?

At the intersection of care delivery, care collaboration, and care analytics lies data interoperability.

Widespread EHR adoption has largely given way to higher order issues of patient data integration,

data interoperability, care analytics, and clinical collaboration. However, large stores of patient data lifted from paper files are locked in proprietary, siloed EHR "file cabinets" and remain largely disconnected.



CIOs are asked to mine their patient data for meaning (Meaningful Use), while HIT leaders have yet to break down data access and sharing barriers that bring a complete view of the patient to light. Until those walls come down, the true benefits of EHR deployment can't be recognized.

CIOs are also paying attention to key market drivers of data integration and interoperability, including:

- » Consolidation events (i.e., mergers and acquisitions, conversions)
- » Regulatory and reimbursement demands
- » Advanced collaboration tool support for telehealth, population health monitoring, and personal/wearable devices

Given these and other drivers, CIOs are turning up the volume on a conversation about the role integrated patient data plays in building, accessing, maintaining, and sharing a comprehensive, longitudinal care record.

CIOs are breaking down data interoperability and clinical interoperability barriers by:

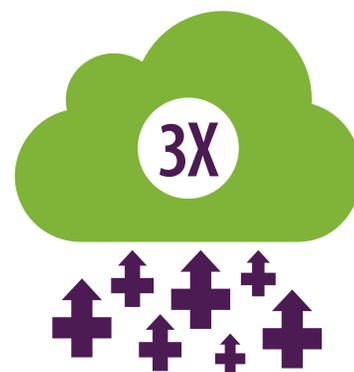


Ascending to the Cloud - Centralize Patient Data Access to Support Care Coordination

Data restricted to access on a LAN-enabled island may meet the letter of the "EHR law", but doesn't affect the kind of real-time access and broader collaboration demanded in healthcare today. The rise in adoption of secure cloud computing in healthcare reflects a shift in CIO "trust" in hosting and cloud technology. Once considered risky business, hosting solutions and cloud computing is now on every healthcare CIO's radar. The growth of health information exchanges (HIEs), both state-funded and private, underlines this shift in attitude toward the cloud. It indicates that healthcare is poised to move beyond patient data collection and turn the focus toward connecting, integrating, and improving HIT interoperability.

Healthcare is rapidly ascending to cloud and hosting alternatives.

Adoption of cloud computing, including hosted off-premise solutions, to facilitate data sharing and interoperability is estimated to grow 3x from 2015 to 2020³ reaching \$10 billion USD, eclipsing growth estimates reported just 12 months ago. In addition to the demand for healthcare "big data" storage, market analyst MarketsandMarkets notes that the type of healthcare data collected and the way that data is collected is also driving cloud adoption.⁴ Increasing penetration of smart gadgets, increasing utilization of



3 Ways Healthcare CIOs are Breaking Down Interoperability Barriers

connected medical devices and use of mHealth apps in the management of chronic diseases is driving the expansion of cloud solutions for data capture and central storage where it can be more easily loaded, accessed, and shared.

Cloud solutions can also provide the foundation for anytime-anywhere data and services access.

Robust penetration of 3G and 4G networks, which provide uninterrupted network-enabled access, and the rising focus on patient-centric healthcare are also expected to drive the growth of cloud and hosting alternatives.

What technology has CIOs

excited? A November 2015 poll asked IT leaders from over 550 providers what new IT technology they were “most excited” about. Cloud-based data sharing ranked number one and topped the list followed closely by vendor-neutral patient data solutions.⁵



👉 What’s fueling this barrier-buster?

Cloud Economics. According to the American College of Healthcare Executives, “Financial Challenges” has ranked as the No. 1 concern for hospital CEOs in the U.S. for over a decade. Healthcare executives need more from their IT dollars, and the combination of hosting solutions and cloud solutions is proven to deliver new levels of efficiency and security in the wake of declining reimbursements and increased government mandates. Cloud solutions also allow healthcare teams to jump-start clinical and data collaboration through secure, compliant, on-demand information exchanges.

If ascending to the cloud isn’t on your 2016 plan, add it, and make it a top priority.

Neutralizing Vendors - Standardize Communication and Exchange

According to a report from healthcare analyst firm Frost & Sullivan, healthcare providers acknowledge the role of digital health in enhancing healthcare efficiency, but most providers (over 50 percent) do not have a healthcare IT roadmap or plan for achieving system interoperability.⁶ The report notes that interoperability standards like HL7 and DICOM are guides for interoperability, but most providers cannot optimally utilize standards to connect a collection of vendor-specific, disparate systems without a roadmap.

Analysts now recommend that healthcare providers focus on workflow and engage vendors who offer “vendor-agnostic” solutions for sharing, collaboration, and integration.⁷

👉 How can you leverage this barrier-breaker?

Invest in vendor-neutrality and standards. As siloed legacy systems give way to standards-based solutions, look for vendor partners who can “neutralize” your environment to usher in greater interoperability. Look outside of our vendor base to vendor-neutral consultants and outsourced integration specialists who can bridge the data gap and integrate your patient data across legacy systems and across on-premise and hosted or cloud solutions.

Consider the same advice when evaluating more “local” data conversion. When migrating from one EHR platform to another, seek a path paved with standards in data storage formats, interfaces, and conversion technology.

3 Ways Healthcare CIOs are Breaking Down Interoperability Barriers



Consolidation “Proofing” HIT Systems – Take Control Before a Merger

Planning for and successfully navigating a consolidation event can have long-lasting benefits on a healthcare organization’s finances, operations, providers, and patients. Organizations often focus first on the integration of systems, then on the integration or conversion of patient data. But it is often the integration of the data that fuels the successful “interoperability readiness” of the entire system. Healthcare CIOs must be able to understand how they will derive cost synergies from the integration, and they should look holistically at the flow of data across their newly-formed enterprise to map a path to successful interoperability.

Take Control When Data Conversions Are Required

EHR conversions, mergers and acquisitions, and other health IT system transitions are commonplace for clinics and community health centers. CIOs who plan for consolidation events are in greater control, have clearly defined roadmaps and have a higher likelihood of meeting their technology, business, and patient care goals than their counterparts who take a less structured approach to consolidation.



👉 Why is this barrier-breaker important?

Consolidation planning allows you to take control and follow a roadmap that best meets your key business and patient care objectives. Your plan will help ensure that powerful connections are created between disparate health IT systems putting you in control of data management, migration, access, and sharing. Integrations and conversions can take place on a schedule and at a pace that meets your specific goals.

Conclusion

Beyond the four walls of the care provider’s organization, patient data needs to flow more broadly, and more securely, than ever before. While most organizations have reasonably well-developed LANs to move data around, they have not yet fully conquered true data exchange and interoperability. They do not have well-defined HIT roadmaps, and aren’t proactively planning for replacement of proprietary systems or for consolidation or conversion events. These organizations cannot realize the full potential of their investments in their EHR systems, nor can they take full advantage of the power that interoperability offers to bring a full patient care record to life.

CIOs are breaking down system and data interoperability barriers to power a more informed care conversation. They are delivering a complete care record where and when it is needed, and they are bringing visibility, intelligence, and decision support to the front lines of care. These efforts are not only improving diagnostic efficiency, and reducing costs, but they are bringing the patient back to the center of care and are helping CIOs meet their core business and patient care goals.

3 Ways Healthcare CIOs are Breaking Down Interoperability Barriers

About eMedApps

eMedApps delivers patient-centric



and vendor-neutral integration, interface, and business continuity solutions to healthcare delivery organizations across the U.S., enabling improved quality of care, increased EHR efficiency, and interoperability within and across the connected enterprise. With an ONC-ACB Certified Interface Engine and extensive industry expertise, eMedApps' Care Connectivity Platform™ is compatible with all major EHR vendors. eMedApps is headquartered in Schaumburg, IL. with offices in San Diego, Houston, and Boston.

Visit www.emedapps.com or call (847) 490-6869 to learn more.

¹Premier, Inc., eHealth Initiative. The Landscape of Accountable Care and Connected Health. September 24, 2014. Results from the 2014 national survey of accountable care organizations.

²American Hospital Association. 2015. Why Interoperability Matters. Washington, D.C., 10/6/15.

³iHealthBeat. Health Care Cloud Computing Market to Grow, Experts Weigh In. October 2015. Available at: <http://www.ihealthbeat.org/articles/2015/10/27/health-care-cloud-computing-market-to-grow-experts-weigh-in>. Accessed on: December 1, 2015.

⁴MarketsandMarkets.com. mHealth Solutions Market by Connected Devices, Apps, Services (Remote Monitoring, Consultation, Prevention) - Global Forecast to 2020. November 2015. Available at: <http://www.marketsandmarkets.com/Market-Reports/mhealth-apps-and-solutions-market-1232.html>. Accessed on: December 2, 2015.

⁵JENSEN and MADSEN. Peer60. Trends in Medical Imaging Technology. November 2015. Available at <https://www.peer60.com/radiology-2015/#/download>. Accessed on December 1, 2015.

⁶Zanchi. Frost & Sullivan. "Interoperability among Connected Medical Devices Can Potentially Transform Healthcare". May 22, 2015. Available at: http://images.discover.frost.com/Web/FrostSullivan/EU_PR_AZanchi_9AB9_22May15.pdf. Last referenced: December 1, 2015.

⁷Murphy. Health IT Interoperability. "Health Interoperability to Face Numerous Challenges". May 26, 2015. Available at: <http://healthitinteroperability.com/news/healthcare-interoperability-to-face-numerous-challenges/05262015>. Last referenced: December 1, 2015.

Contact us to learn more about our services and products.

(847) 490-6869 | info@eMedApps.com | www.eMedApps.com | [in](#) [t](#) [f](#) /eMedApps