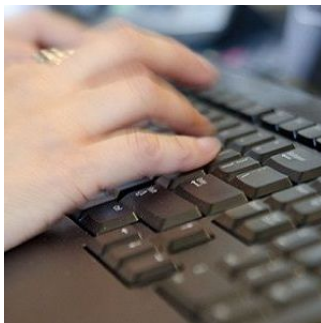## 5 IT Terms Hospital CEOs Should Know

Healthcare is one area where technology has made a huge impact. New medical devices, medicines and treatments that improve patient care are created as a result of technological advancements.

As technology evolves fast, healthcare executives who come from non-technical backgrounds may find it overwhelming. Hence, it's essential that they understand some key terms and concepts, according to *Managed Healthcare Executive*.

The way technology intersects with a healthcare executive's job duties is constantly evolving, according to Beth Diamond, global claims team leader, technology, media & business, at Beazley. "Without an understanding of what these terms mean, the impact of these concepts is never fully appreciated and cannot be integrated into business processes," she told *Managed Healthcare Executive*. "They cannot simply rely on the information technology or information security groups."

The online article lists eight terms executives should know. Here are five of them:

Big data, which refers to large datasets that an organisation analyses for patterns or trends. Bill Stinneford, senior vice president at Buxton, a consumer data firm, said healthcare leaders should focus on the relevance of the data rather than volume. "When we talk about big data, we need to talk about using the right data and methodologies to discover big answers," he noted.

Population health, or managing and analysing the health of a broad sociodemographic cross-section of patients. Here, big data is useful. "Having data-driven insights at your fingertips allows you to...identify high-risk individuals, locate care gaps, and run algorithms to detect potential emergencies that could lead to expensive hospitalisations and treatments before they occur," said Virtual Health CEO Adam Sabloff.

Interoperability, or the ability of different information systems to communicate and trade data. This function is particularly important as health information exchange is vital to patient population analysis, according to Sabloff.

Mobile health, or mHealth, the use of devices such as laptops, tablets and phones to access and exchange clinical data. While mHealth is a somewhat new concept, the industry and consumers increasingly view it as a way to streamline care, according to the article.

Patient engagement, or ensuring that patients are involved and included in their own care processes. Expanding patients' role in care management is a major issue at all levels of healthcare, but increasing use of telehealth monitoring and wearables makes it crucial that executives understand it from an IT perspective.

Source: Managed Healthcare Executive
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