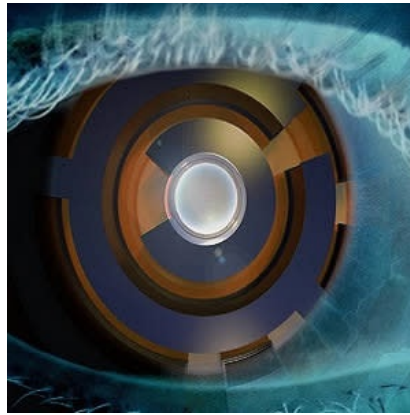




## AI skills shortage stunting healthcare



The growing adoption of artificial intelligence technologies is helping the cause of Learning Health Systems.

“Learning Health Systems continually improve by collecting data and processing it to inform better decision making. As the amount and complexity of big data continues to increase, organisations are challenged to fully take advantage of it,” said Kenneth Kleinberg, Vice President at Chilmark Research. “AI systems are particularly suited to analyse huge data sets to discover meaningful and actionable insights, and even to carry out actions.”

In short, the more good data we can feed AI systems, the better the insights we get back. That's what Kleinberg is driving at.

The good news is that a range of software and technology vendors, and even some academic medical centres, already offer tools to glean structured and unstructured data to craft predictions that inform clinical decision support. This is based on research Chilmark is conducting in conjunction with the University of Michigan Medical School surveying dozens of participants in the Learning Health Community.

“Half of the health systems we surveyed believe that most medical specialities will be using AI in a major way in one to three years,” Kleinberg said. Survey results so far indicate that in addition to predictive analytics, natural language processing and image recognition technologies, many other AI use cases will be common in 1-3 years, including clinical decision support, use of virtual assistants, and precision medicine.

However, there are challenges hospitals face in their use of AI technologies to better manage health data and analytics.

“While data is increasingly abundant in healthcare, it is often captured in unusable formats or is incomplete, which can undermine the usefulness of AI,” Kleinberg explained.

It doesn't help that healthcare is lagging when it comes to the advanced processes and workflows widespread AI deployment demands — as well as the current and expected data scientist talent shortage.

“In our survey, every respondent has listed skills as a ‘significant’ barrier,” Kleinberg said. “The challenge of change management varies widely. Those organisations most willing to learn will find AI can take them where they want to go.”

Source: [Healthcare IT News](#)  
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