

EHR Optimisation Faces Budgetary Constraints



With no expansion seen in IT budgets, many CIOs at healthcare organisations say they will still pursue plans of optimising electronic health record (EHR) systems during the next three years, according to research and consulting firm KPMG.

In general, CIOs are hoping to achieve savings from optimisation efforts and then reinvest those funds, particularly in telehealth and analytics, because executive leadership is telling them, “We can’t give you any more money,” says Ralph Fargnoli, managing director at KPMG.

In a survey of 112 CIO members of the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives, KMG found that the CIOs are looking for solutions to physician dissatisfaction with the EHRs they have in place.

Under the new administration, there’s much uncertainty as to what will happen with the Affordable Care Act. That makes it even more imperative for CIOs “to continue down the path to get the best efficiencies in IT spend and use data to support accountable care and payment changes,” notes Fargnoli.

Survey respondents indicated technology investments would target EHR optimisation (38 percent), cloud computing (25 percent), accountable care/population health (21 percent), consumer/clinical/operational analytics (16 percent), virtual/telehealth enhancements (13 percent), revenue cycle optimisation/replacement (7 percent) and enterprise resource planning system optimization/replacement (6 percent).

In the end, Fargnoli says, optimisation should focus not just on technology but on change management, with one key question to consider: “How does an information system impact patients and clinicians and support quality outcomes and patient care?”

Source: [Health Data Management](#)

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