Healthcare Technology Management (HTM) professionals are vital members of any world-class healthcare delivery team. Clinical engineers, biomedical equipment technicians, and other highly trained and skilled professionals use their expertise to ensure the safety, efficacy, and availability of life-saving healthcare technologies, while keeping healthcare costs down.

As healthcare technologies become increasingly sophisticated, software-based, and highly integrated, HTM professionals will continue to be in high demand. Working in concert with clinicians and other medical facility personnel to ensure the highest standards and best practices in medical device safety, security, interoperability and functionality, HTM professionals are responsible for providing a wide array of service offerings, including:

- Equipment planning, purchase, installation, and maintenance
- Expeditious clinical consultation on the safe and effective use of healthcare technologies
- Improving clinical competencies through training clinical staff on proper use of healthcare technologies
- Proper maintenance of healthcare technologies by blending in-house expertise with efficient management of multi-million dollar service contracts
- Disaster preparedness

Whether advising on the purchase, management, or repair of medical devices and technologies, or providing clinical staff with on-call technical assistance, the impact of HTM professionals is felt not only at the point of patient care, but throughout the health system.

"Healthcare organizations need professionals with deep knowledge of the complex issues associated with today’s healthcare technology challenges. In our view, healthcare technology managers are ideally suited for this role and so have a great opportunity to become a critical part of any healthcare organization’s future success."

— Tony Montagnolo, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at ECRI Institute
IMPROVING PATIENT OUTCOMES

HTM departments play a vital role in patient safety by:

▸ Inspecting, installing, and quickly repairing healthcare technology
▸ Educating clinicians on the safe and effective use of equipment
▸ Managing technology networks
▸ Preparing operating rooms and other patient areas to ensure electrical and fire safety
▸ Managing medical device recalls and alerts, and investigating device failures and near misses, as part of a multidisciplinary team

PROVIDING CLINICAL SUPPORT

Providing excellent customer service is a top priority— and essential to physicians, nurses, and other caregivers. They:

▸ Support hospital staff with on-call technical expertise
▸ Remain up to date about cutting-edge technology and trends
▸ Offer guidance on healthcare technology purchasing, planning, and facility design
▸ Serve a key role in disaster preparedness and other safety issues
▸ Ensure hospital compliance with accreditation surveys and other regulations

CONTROLLING COSTS

HTM departments have a major impact on protecting a facility’s bottom line through:

▸ Technology assessment and value analysis
▸ Strategically planning equipment acquisition and replacement
▸ Managing vendors and equipment service contracts
▸ Developing in-house maintenance capabilities where indicated
▸ Coordinating technology assets to maximize utilization and effectiveness, in collaboration with clinical colleagues
▸ Improving clinical efficiency through excellent customer service
▸ Maximizing technology investments by advising on life expectancy and decommissioning of equipment

The Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI)—representing a unique alliance of nearly 7,000 healthcare technology professionals—offers a wealth of information about the field of healthcare technology management at www.IamHTM.org.

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