Healthcare Technology Management (HTM) professionals are vital members of any world-class healthcare delivery team. Whether they are advising on the purchase, management, or repair of medical devices and technologies, or providing clinical staff with on-call technical assistance, HTM professionals offer the support for a safe, cost-effective, and well-maintained healthcare environment that improves clinical outcomes.

HTM is a critical partner to the Information Technology (IT) team. Medical devices are becoming increasingly sophisticated, software-based, and highly integrated, and require IT and HTM professionals to collaborate more than ever. It is imperative that HTM and IT professionals work together to ensure the highest standards and best practices in medical device safety, security, interoperability, and functionality. It is also important for HTM and IT to present a synchronized approach for interacting with clinical and administrative staff, together providing a comprehensive perspective on the status of healthcare technologies across the organization.

Key partnership areas between HTM and IT include:

- Making decisions on procurement of technologies, including requirements for interfacing with other technologies and systems
- Establishing clearly defined design, implementation, and support roles and responsibilities, response times, and end-user communication
- Ensuring information security between healthcare technology and IT systems

Did you know?

Over the next 10 years, the HTM profession is expected to grow 61.7% (source: Bureau of Labor Statistics)

“Healthcare Technology Management professionals understand the complex interactions within and between systems, bring clarity to the complexity, and offer tremendous guidance not just on what technologies, IT or otherwise, should be deployed but how they should be deployed to ensure success and the highest level of reliability.”

— Ken Olbrish, Communication Product Manager, Arthrex California Technology
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

To learn more about Healthcare Technology Management, visit www.IamHTM.org

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.AAMI.org/htmconnect. Share your experience and opinions by contacting Patrick Bernat at pbernat@aami.org