

2015 HIMSS Mobile Technology Survey

Executive Summary

April 2015



The use of wireless and mobile technologies continues to be of interest to providers and health systems as they try to engage patients in their healthcare and not only deliver high quality care, but respond to government directives, such as Meaningful Use, guidance from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Medicare reimbursement requirements.

The responses provided by the 238 respondents to the 2015 HIMSS Mobile Technology Study suggest that healthcare organizations are widely beginning to deploy mobile technologies with the aim of engaging patients within their organizations. Many respondents reported a need to fully optimize and leverage the wide capabilities that mobile technologies and platforms offered. For instance, nearly 90 percent of respondents reported that they maintain mobile devices to engage patients at their organizations. However, respondents signaled that organizations continue to struggle to effectively engage patients using existing mobile devices. For instance, respondents were most likely to engage patients with app-enabled portals (73 percent), but only 36 percent reported that use of app-enabled portals to be a highly effective means of engaging patients.

Additionally, the report found that many organizations are now starting to measure how these mobile technologies impact patient care delivery. More than half of respondents (51 percent) reported that their organization was able to leverage technology to coordinate or impact patient care in at least one of the areas provided in the study. The greatest areas of impact emanate from telehealth interventions, including the use of remote ICUs, teleradiology services, and the ability to coordinate care across the care continuum, which includes the use of remote patient monitoring tools.

Other key survey results include:

Mobile Implementation: 47 percent of respondents indicated that implementation of mobile services for access to information is a high priority at their organization. However, only 18 percent indicated their mobile technology environment was highly mature.

Mobile Technology Policy: 57 percent of respondents indicated their organization has a mobile technology policy; another third reported that their organization will develop one in the future. Mobile device security was indicated as a key component of current and future mobile technology policies.

Federal Policy's Influence: More than half of respondents indicated that the Meaningful Use Program has a strong impact on their organization's mHealth strategy.

App Development: Approximately one-third (31 percent) of respondents indicated their organization currently offers organizational-specific apps for patients. Another 30 percent reported their organization is presently developing an organization-specific app. Ten percent of respondents have created an app marketplace to distribute apps internally or externally.

Integration of Data into the EHR: Two thirds (67 percent) of respondents reported that at least some portion of the information on a mobile device is uploaded into the organization's electronic health record (EHR). Only eight percent of respondents reported that their organization captures all data generated by mobile devices into their EHR.

Sending Alerts to Providers/Care Teams: One-third of respondents indicated that their organization has created interfaces between the EHR and other devices such that alerts are posted directly into the EHR.

Barriers to Mobile Technology: Lack of funding continues to be a top barrier to the effective use of mobile technology. This was identified by 51 percent of respondents.

About HIMSS

HIMSS is a global, cause-based, not-for-profit organization focused on better health through information technology (IT). HIMSS leads efforts to optimize health engagements and care outcomes using information technology. Visit www.himss.org. For additional Mobile Health resources, visit www.himss.org/mhealth.

HIMSS is a part of HIMSS WorldWide, a cause-based, global enterprise producing health IT thought leadership, education, events, market research and media services around the world. Founded in 1961, HIMSS WorldWide encompasses more than 52,000 individuals, of which more than two-thirds work in healthcare provider, governmental and not-for-profit organizations across the globe, plus over 600 corporations and 250 not-for-profit partner organizations, that share this cause. HIMSS WorldWide, headquartered in Chicago, serves the global health IT community with additional offices in the United States, Europe, and Asia.

How to Cite This Study

Individuals are encouraged to cite this report and any accompanying graphics in printed matter, publications, or any other medium, as long as the information is attributed to the 2015 HIMSS Mobile Technology Survey.

How to Access the Full Results

The entire report is available to HIMSS members at <http://www.himss.org/2015-mobile-survey>.

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