

Four Healthcare Technology Trends to Watch in 2018

Dear Students,

In this class, we need to develop a habit of keeping updated with the healthcare technology trends. According to some experts in the field, four major trends deserve more of our attention. They are

1. Blockchain moves from hope to practical use in healthcare. Blockchain is in essence a distributed public ledger linked by a nearly impregnable cryptographic chain. As such, it has the potential to solve health IT's most intractable problems: lack of interoperability and securing the integrity, completeness and privacy of health records.
2. EHR vendors more involved in analytics. With electronic health record (EHR) systems in full force throughout the medical industry, predictors believe that 2018 will be the year when EHR vendors move more solidly into patient data analytics work. The advantages of doing so include improving population health efforts and providing real-time reporting among various healthcare specialties.
3. Artificial intelligence (AI) will start to make real impact on healthcare industry. Besides using AI for natural language processing and robotic process automation, some experts believe that in 2018 AI will begin to provide value in areas such as cancer diagnostics, pathology, and image recognition.
4. The digital health transformation will be mobilized. Mobile is becoming increasingly prevalent in healthcare, and with the proliferation of smartphones and tablets, the trend doesn't appear to be slowing down any time soon. FDA also issued new guidance that loosened its regulations for certain mobile health technologies to reflect its "new, more modern approach to digital health products."

Interested students can read more details at

<http://searchhealthit.techtarget.com/news/450432637/Four-healthcare-technology-trends-to-watch-in-2018>.

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/key-trends-in-digital-health-asia-pacific-2018-2018-01-05>

You are also welcome to explore any of the trends further in your term paper. Innovations are taking place in healthcare information technology and system management faster than we can keep up with. Enjoy your exploration in this fast changing field of study!