

Four Changes Coming to Traditional Healthcare Facilities

Learn how trends around patient experience, emerging technology, unexpected emergencies, and staffing shortages will affect future healthcare facility construction projects



Building the future of healthcare

The healthcare industry has changed drastically over the last few years as healthcare workers combat a global pandemic while adopting newer technologies to better support patients.

These are just a couple of factors that are shaping the latest industry trends. As the healthcare landscape changes, there will be a significant impact on what healthcare facilities should be built and how those facilities should be built, retrofitted, and maintained. In this ebook, we'll explore four key trends affecting the healthcare industry and what they mean for the future of healthcare facilities.

Trend 1: Healthcare facilities will need to provide both in-person and virtual care for patients

In recent years, research has shown that many patients prefer virtual medical visits. According to a **2022 McKinsey & Company report**, 60% of patients surveyed said they agreed that virtual health is more convenient than in-person care.

Additionally, remote working is becoming more prevalent among healthcare employees and clinicians. Therefore, healthcare organizations need to consider the implications of how healthcare facilities will be utilized.

It is projected that in the late-stage pandemic era, patient demand for telehealth services will continue to grow, but that doesn't mean in-person patient care will go away entirely.

Even as telehealth rises in popularity, it will still be important to offer both in-person care and telehealth options since not all healthcare services can be completed with the support of telehealth technology.

When medical records are digitized, this can also help patients reduce their number of in-person visits to see a distant medical professional. For example, if a local physician and a medical specialist share a patient's medical data digitally, the patient can potentially reduce the number of trips they need to make to see the specialist in person. Instead, the patient can complete some visits virtually with their specialist and visit their local physician for in-person follow-ups to augment their in-person visits with their specialist. This can be particularly beneficial if the medical specialist is located far away from the patient.



“We’re seeing more people take advantage of telehealth services since Covid accelerated the need for virtual care. It’s becoming more common for patients to meet with doctors – particularly specialists – virtually for consults and follow-up appointments so that they only have to go to a healthcare facility for the actual medical procedure. So instead of three or more in-person visits for a specific issue, the patient now only needs to do one in-person visit.”

Patty Burns

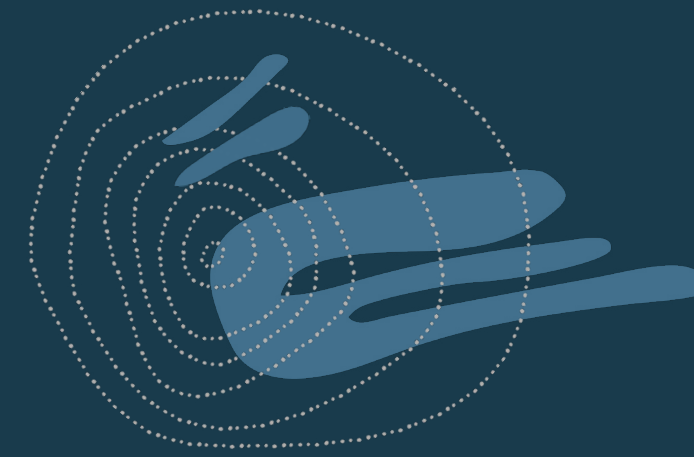
Head of marketing at a global medical technology company



Trend 2: Advancements in clinical technologies and IT upgrades will continue to shape healthcare best practices

Technology advancements will continue to have an impact on how facilities should be built in the future. For example, technology will drive the need for more connectivity, power, and backup capabilities. Telehealth services are already proving the need to rethink the way healthcare spaces should be designed and built. Fewer in-person visits could mean that fewer parking spaces may be needed or that facilities may need fewer waiting room seats and exam rooms.

According to a **McKinsey & Company report**, telehealth utilization increased in 2021 by 38X since the pre-Covid baseline. In April 2020, overall telehealth utilization for office visits and outpatient care was 78 times higher than in February 2020. Although telehealth utilization has stabilized since April 2020, an overall increase in telehealth utilization remains compared to the pre-Covid era.



Artificial Intelligence (AI): a use case for the future of medicine

AI continues to be rapidly adopted in healthcare, especially for diagnosing symptoms and predicting patient recovery outcomes.

As an example, the technology is now being used for early detection of sepsis, a severe inflammatory response to infection. With AI algorithms, the technology can detect key risk factors in real time by monitoring patients' electronic medical records as physicians enter information.

With technology like AI to help with early detection of sepsis, patients can be treated more quickly with the goal of speeding recovery and minimizing their hospital stays.



Beyond telehealth technologies and services, innovations in clinical technologies and continual IT upgrades in healthcare spaces may drastically change how healthcare facilities are built. Most hospitals and healthcare facilities require continual software upgrades to support everything from electronic data capture to monitoring patient flow. However, this can prove challenging if these facilities are operating legacy systems that can't interface with more advanced software.

“There are challenges when hospitals need to implement new equipment and software because every hospital has different existing infrastructure and IT systems. So the implementation phase can be delayed if the newer and older systems can't talk to each other,” Burns says.

For example, to be deployed, patient management systems need to tie into specific hospital systems. System incompatibility can cause delays during implementation. Modernizing on top of outdated physical and IT infrastructure does not always prove cost effective and therefore can put a hospital at risk of being shut down for being too outdated.



Remote monitoring to reduce doctor visits

For years, patient data tracking was a predominantly manual task.

With the rise of at home health technology and the adoption of healthcare apps, patients aren't required to spend as much time visiting healthcare providers to ensure they're properly monitored.

Recently, Validic Inc., a market-leading digital health and remote care company, partnered with Oracle Cerner to provide integrated remote patient monitoring to hospitals and health systems.

“The relationship will help clients implement remote monitoring programs directly within their Oracle Cerner electronic health record (EHR) to better manage population-wide chronic conditions.”

Adrienne Rupp
Validic Inc.





Trend 3: Healthcare facilities need to accommodate fluctuating patient volumes and unexpected emergencies

Natural disasters, future pandemics, and other emergencies that may be difficult to predict will likely result in continuing and growing fluctuation in patient volumes at healthcare facilities in the future. Turbulent events caused by more extreme weather and world health emergencies in recent years have proven that now more than ever, healthcare facilities need be able to prepare for and support these sudden spikes in patient volume. But how can facilities be built or retrofitted with emergency preparedness in mind?

Building for resiliency

For healthcare facilities to continue functioning during these times of crisis, they need to have the infrastructure in place to deal with extreme conditions such as power cuts, IT outages, and significant temperature variation.

Some of the installations to be considered include:

- prefabrication and multi-use spaces
- back-up generators
- redundant IT
- metal sheeting in cabling
- wiring to support high-definition cameras in patient rooms



Trend 4: Healthcare worker shortages will impact how healthcare facilities are utilized

In the wake of Covid-19, the healthcare industry has seen unprecedented levels of workers retiring early or leaving the field altogether. According to a 2021 report, nearly one in five healthcare workers have quit their jobs since February 2020, resulting in a staggering worker shortage.

A dominant issue within the healthcare industry for years, nursing shortages were amplified by the Covid-19 pandemic—during which nurses faced gruesome hours and unprecedented levels of stress and burnout.

The industry is being forced to look at alternative ways to meet patient needs. Technology is helping to some extent. A physician can “see” more patients virtually in the same period of time without the need for transitions such as washing, cleaning, and sanitizing themselves and the rooms, and it is easier to keep on schedule and finish appointments on time.

According to Experian Health, one method to help healthcare workers maximize time with patients is to equip patients with technology that allows them to complete more administrative tasks digitally. Giving patients self-service tools to assist with tasks like scheduling and registration can help minimize manual tasks and reduce call volumes for healthcare workers so they can optimize their time. These digital tools also support automation and can help reduce data errors to help avoid delays in treatment.



Building and renovating healthcare facilities for the future

How healthcare facilities are utilized will continue to change in the future based on these four key trends. Facilities not only need to be functional in decades to come, but they also need to be built so they're prepared for the unexpected.

When starting new healthcare facility projects, owners will need a trusted solution to help them remain agile and flexible so assets can be built efficiently and flexibly to deliver needed healthcare throughout their long usable lives.



Time for a solution checkup?

With Primavera Unifier, the Unifier Accelerator configuration, with healthcare specific capabilities including Infection Control Risk Assessment (ICRA) and Interim Life Safety Measures (ILSM) management, project owners for healthcare facilities can implement a data-driven approach to project prioritization and selection, execute projects efficiently, build flexibility into the project scope, and ensure operations has the data and visibility they need to modify and maintain spaces in the future. The solution enables owners to oversee and control their entire portfolio of projects and assets using consistent data structures so owners can manage risks and use the lessons learned to continuously improve processes from project to project.

Having a single solution that can support planning, cost, schedule tracking, and risk can help owners get the most out of their capital program investments so healthcare facilities are built and retrofitted safely, on time, and within budget. Primavera Unifier enables owners to oversee their portfolio budgets and project spending and forecasts to eliminate surprises and cost-related project delays. And, if a project forecast changes, data-driven decisions can quickly be made about reallocating the budget to keep the project on track.



Jump start Oracle Primavera Unifier implementation with the Unifier Accelerator base configuration

Oracle Construction and Engineering is an autonomous business unit within Oracle, set up with world-class solutions and expert DNA to solve complex industry-specific problems by helping people improve control, see data in new ways, discover insights, and unlock endless possibilities.

Our solutions like **Oracle Primavera Unifier**, part of the **Oracle Smart Construction Platform**, are used to plan, build, and operate everything from the world's biggest and most complex engineering projects to facilities and infrastructure that support communities around the world. The power of Oracle solutions helps to:

- Connect the project stakeholders and systems to consume, analyze, and share information more effectively and securely
- Empower project teams with insights and intelligence for more accurate, proactive, data-informed decision-making
- Synchronize the owners, delivery partners, stakeholders, and investors to maximize capital budgets and support organizational goals





CONNECT WITH US

Visit the homepage [here](#)

Copyright © 2024 Oracle and/or its affiliates. This document is provided for information purposes only, and the contents hereof are subject to change without notice. This document is not warranted to be error-free, nor subject to any other warranties or conditions, whether expressed orally or implied in law, including implied warranties and conditions of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. We specifically disclaim any liability with respect to this document, and no contractual obligations are formed either directly or indirectly by this document. This document may not be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, for any purpose, without our prior written permission.

Oracle and Java are registered trademarks of Oracle and/or its affiliates. Other names may be trademarks of their respective owners.

