

1<sup>st</sup> Annual  
**HIMSS Leadership Survey**  
Asia Pacific Executive Summary





## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual HIMSS Asia Pacific Leadership Survey Executive Summary September 2011

Approximately half of survey respondents indicated that the key business objective that their organisation is trying to achieve in the next year was to improve the quality of patient care. Indeed, when asked to identify the single information technology (IT) priority at this time, respondents were most likely to choose those items that would have a direct impact on patient care. Indeed, one-third of the survey's 240 respondents identified a focus on clinical solutions such as computerized practitioner order entry (CPOE) or electronic health records that could help them achieve that goal. Also highly prioritized were optimizing currently installed systems and providing patient-centric solutions meant to help enhance the patient experience, such as Web-based self-service solutions.

Respondents also understand the importance of data exchange. One-quarter of respondents noted that healthcare data interoperability/Healthcare Information Exchanges (HIEs) will be the business issue that will have the most impact on the delivery of healthcare in the next two years. They also identify systems integration as a key area where IT staff will be needed in the future.

Other key survey results include:

**Electronic Health Records<sup>1</sup>:** Slightly more than one-third of respondents noted that they have a fully operational EHR in at least one facility at their organisation. Twelve percent of respondents have not yet begun to plan for the use of an EHR in the future.

**Impact of IT on Patient Care:** Respondents strongly believe that IT can have a positive impact on healthcare delivery. One-third of respondents indicated that IT can have a positive impact on patient care through the reduction of medical errors. Another quarter of respondents also believe that IT can improve clinical and quality outcomes.

**Barriers to IT Implementation:** Respondents were most likely to identify a lack of organisational financial support/lack of budget as the most significant barrier to IT implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this research, an EHR has been defined as electronically originated and maintained clinical health information for patients, derived from multiple clinical application sources, about an individual's episode of healthcare at a care delivery organisation. It contains all clinical orders and documentation related to a patient's treatment in electronic format. An EHR is also supported by clinical decision support systems and replaced the paper medical record as the primary source of patient information.

**IT Strategic Plan:** Three-quarters of respondents indicated a strong level of integration between the IT strategic plan at their organisation and the organisation's overall strategic plan. However, one of the top barriers to IT implementation identified in this research was an organisation's lack of a strategic plan and/or their failure to execute on a plan in place.

**Role of Clinicians:** Clinicians are active participants in the IT environments, playing a role in IT system evaluation/selection, acting as project champions and participating in the development of policies related to clinical information systems.

**Security Concerns:** Healthcare IT professionals indicated that data leakage (such as patient information distributed via unsecure e-mail) was the primary concern regarding the security of data at their organisation. Approximately 17 percent of respondents indicated that their organisation has experienced a security breach in the past year.

**IT Governance:** More than three-quarters of the senior IT executives in this survey reported that they sit on the executive committee at their organisation.

**Senior IT Executive Responsibilities:** Almost all of the senior IT executives surveyed reported that they are responsible for at least one IT area outside of the IT department. Respondents were most likely to report being responsible for the health information management (HIM) department.

**IT Staffing:** Nearly two-thirds of respondents reported that the number of IT staff at their organisation was expected to increase in the next year. The greatest area of staffing needs were in the areas of systems integration, system design/implementation and clinical application support.

**IT Budgets:** Slightly less than three-quarters of respondents indicated that the IT operating budget at their organisation would increase compared to spending in 2010. This increase was most likely to be attributed to the need to upgrade their organisation's IT infrastructure.

**IT Infrastructure:** Respondents were most likely to identify the use of mobile devices (such as smart phones or USB devices) as a key infrastructure priority. Also highly identified as a priority were the use of servers/virtual servers and cloud computing.

The full report will be available on the HIMSS Analytics Asia website at [www.himssanalyticsasia.org](http://www.himssanalyticsasia.org). If you would like more information about this report, please contact Gabriel Sim, Director of Sales for HIMSS Asia Pacific.

Gabriel Sim  
Director of Sales  
HIMSS Asia Pacific  
Phone: +65 6664 1181  
Fax: +65 6836 7728  
Mobile: +65 9299 0802  
E-mail: [gsim@himss.org](mailto:gsim@himss.org)