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Digital technologies and new healthcare models

David Lee Scher

Penn State University, USA

There is general agreement among patient advocacy, healthcare policy, and economic leaders that technology will play a critical role in addressing the 'perfect storm' of manpower shortages, increased demands and therefore costs of healthcare. Improved efficiencies and outcomes will necessitate new care models to increase patient participation and the sharing of treatment decisions. Tools supporting this heightened engagement need to be deployed at the point of care, deliver a positive user experience (which includes behavioral incentives) for both providers and patients, and demonstrate improved outcomes from both process and clinical perspectives. These new care models take into account the shift from the acute to non-acute setting, and will include both new clinical and business models. Many phases of care delivery will include new workflows and providers specially qualified in digital technology. Analytics, remote patient monitoring, and mobile medical apps will become integral parts of these new models. Challenges of adoption include interoperability challenges, the need for reimbursement reform, and education of both patients and providers. Partnerships among developers, vendors, and regulatory agencies are of paramount importance. The promise of the delivery of only filtered and actionable data (facilitated by well-developed and clinically-driven analytics) will be demanded by physicians. New care models will mandate new paradigms in the clinical and non-clinical aspects of healthcare supported by quality technologies.

Biography

David Lee Scher, MD, is a practicing cardiac electrophysiologist in Lancaster, PA and Director at DLS Healthcare Consulting, LLC, advising digital health technology companies and healthcare enterprises in areas of mobilehealth. He is Chair of the HIMSS mHealth Roadmap Task Force and member of the HIMSS mHealth Committee. His blog, The Digital Health Corner is syndicated, and he is well-known in Twitterverse.

dlschermd@gmail.com