Medical Xpress

New survey highlights digital health challenges

November 19 2018

As health system leaders look ahead to the challenges and opportunities of the coming year, they are increasing their spending to defend against cyberattacks, expressing optimism about reimbursement for telehealth services, and feeling anxiety about Apple, Amazon and Google entering the health care space.

Those were among the key findings from a new [survey](#), "Top of Mind for Top Health Systems 2019," focusing on cybersecurity, telehealth and interoperability. The findings are based on quantitative and qualitative surveys of C-suite executives at nearly 40 U.S. health systems.

Released by the Center for Connected Medicine (CCM), in partnership with The Health Management Academy, key findings include:

- Hackers and other cyber-criminals are stepping up their attacks on the health care industry, leading 87 percent of respondents to say they expect to increase spending on cybersecurity in 2019; no health system was expecting to decrease spending.
- Health [information](#) technology (IT) leaders overwhelmingly expect government and commercial reimbursement to provide the majority of funding for telehealth services by 2022; internal funding and patient payments are expected to provide the majority of funding for telehealth in 2019.
- 70 percent of responding executives said they were "somewhat concerned" about big tech companies, such as Apple, Amazon and Google, disrupting the health care market; 10 percent were

"very concerned."

The CCM, which is jointly operated by GE Healthcare, Nokia and UPMC, partnered with The Academy for the Top of Mind 2019 survey. Conducted in three parts, the research started with a survey of health system information officers in May 2018 to determine the top areas of health IT for 2019; 63 chief information officers (CIO), chief medical information officers (CMIO), and chief nursing information officers (CNIO) responded.

A quantitative survey was conducted in July 2018 with questions focused on cybersecurity, telehealth and interoperability; 30 CIOs, CMIOs and CNIOs responded. In September 2018, qualitative interviews were completed with 18 C-suite executives, including chief executive officers, chief operating officers, CIOs and CMIOs. Overall, the respondents represented 38 health systems with average annual revenue of $5.3 billion.

  More information: For more key findings, download a copy of the report at www.connectedmed.com.

Provided by University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences