

AI in Healthcare: Beyond IBM Watson

AI in healthcare shows promise, but security concerns prevail



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IBM Watson is without a doubt the most well-known use of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare and has been used in a number of disciplines, including with payers, oncology, and patient risk assessment.

But today, AI in healthcare goes beyond Watson. In this e-guide, discover:

- 4 key uses for AI in a healthcare settings
- Security and interoperability concerns surrounding AI
- How AI can improve patient engagement
- 6 health IT trends to watch in 2017 (Hint: AI is included!)

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Four uses for artificial intelligence in healthcare

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We surround ourselves with technology that is able to help us in our daily lives. The success of autonomous cars, advancements in clinical research and [personal digital assistants](#) has shown the incredible potential of technology and how far it has come in recent decades. Despite the progress that many other industries have made, healthcare is likely to be the one market where artificial intelligence can truly have an impact that goes beyond convenience and positively affects human lives.

[Artificial intelligence \(AI\)](#) is defined as the science and engineering of creating intelligent computer systems that are able to perform tasks without receiving instructions directly from humans. These computer systems use a number of different algorithms and decision-making capabilities, as well as vast amounts of data, to provide a solution or response to a request.

Today, more than ever, many technology vendors are making significant investments in AI to ensure they are able to offer solutions and services that can use the technology. Microsoft, Google, Apple, IBM and Amazon, to name a few, have all adopted and fully committed to AI and are already providing these services to consumers.

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Anytime a new technology enters healthcare, there are a number of challenges it faces. Common setbacks of artificial intelligence in healthcare include a lack of data exchange, regulatory compliance requirements and patient and provider adoption. AI has come across all of these issues, narrowing down the areas in which it can succeed.

The most popular [use of artificial intelligence](#) in healthcare is in IBM's smart cloud, where Watson lives. The Watson platform has been used in a number of disciplines within healthcare [including with payers](#), oncology and patient risk assessment.

There are a number of other applications within healthcare where AI can deliver incredible value, but healthcare executives must evaluate and see if they can adopt some or all of them in order to begin their journey in the AI space. The following are four areas in which artificial intelligence in healthcare is gaining steam.

Personal health virtual assistant

With most of today's U.S. adolescents, adults and seniors owning a smartphone, they are likely to have access to an intelligent personal virtual assistant on their device. [The likes of Cortana](#) and Siri are backed by powerful systems with robust AI capabilities. These systems have the potential to provide tremendous value when combined with healthcare apps.

Healthcare apps can be used to deliver medication alerts, patient education material and human-like interactions to gauge a patient's current mental