Keeping the ‘patient’ at the centre in the age of interoperability

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Emerging times require us to think outside the box and re-evaluate the way we operate. In the world of healthcare, the focus has shifted from a siloed approach to digital transformation. The push for interoperability has become a necessity to provide seamless care, improve patient outcomes, and reduce costs.

The current healthcare landscape is characterized by fragmented systems, where patient information is stored in silos and difficult to access. This not only hampers the delivery of care but also poses significant challenges to patient safety and care coordination.

Interoperability, the ability to share digital data between different systems, is essential to ensure that patient information is available and accessible across all points of care. This allows for better decision-making, improved patient outcomes, and reduced errors.

Building solid foundations

Healthcare often uses the word ‘interoperability’ loosely, but for it to be effective, it must be grounded in solid standards. Standards are the foundation of interoperability, providing a common language that allows different systems to communicate effectively.

Common standards exist to ensure that different healthcare systems can share data. However, achieving true interoperability requires more than just the adoption of standards. It requires investment, education, and a culture change within the healthcare sector. By investing in training and education, healthcare providers can better understand the importance of interoperability and how it can benefit their patients.

Interoperability: a bridge between digital and physical

When we talk about interoperability, we often focus on the digital aspects, but the physical world is also a critical component. Bridging the digital and physical worlds is essential to ensure that patient care is delivered seamlessly across all environments.

Clinically Integrated Supply Chain

In the age of big data and technology, the supply chain plays a crucial role in patient care. The ability to track and trace products, ensuring they are delivered on time and in good condition, is essential to maintaining patient safety.

Clinically Integrated Supply Chain

What typically the supply chain in healthcare organizations has been seen as a black-box function, the ability to provide care relies upon efficient and effective supply chains. Ensuring the timely and accurate delivery of critical materials and medications is crucial to patient safety.

Device Identification

With the increasing use of medical devices, it is essential to have a device identification system in place. Unique Device Identification (UDI) is a system that assigns a unique identifier to each medical device, allowing for better tracking and monitoring.

UDI helps in reducing errors, improving patient safety, and facilitating effective communication across the healthcare continuum.

Conclusion

In conclusion, interoperability is the key to unlocking the full potential of digital health. It requires a commitment from healthcare providers, standards organizations, and patients themselves to ensure that the technology is used to its fullest potential. By working together, we can create a more connected and efficient healthcare system that benefits everyone involved.