Clinician of the Future 2023

Elevating global voices in healthcare

Summary Report

Healthcare continues to change, and we're taking its pulse

The new *Clinician of the Future Report 2023*, from Elsevier Health, provides the latest insights on future trends in healthcare, continuing the global research conducted last year in the inaugural Clinician of the Future report. Here we share a summary of our key findings.

We have taken a pulse of the evolving world of healthcare and how the landscape is shifting, to see where we stand one year on. We have followed up on some previous findings, looked from different angles at others, and opened new lines of investigation. The aim was to uncover shifts in expectations that could impact the way healthcare is delivered in the future and consider what clinicians might do as those changes progress.

In the *Clinician of the Future Report 2022*, we looked at the future clinician from five angles, and identified the different skills, profiles, and roles that could meet the challenges clinicians identified ahead. We established a baseline by asking clinicians about their current experience, and we asked them to look a decad ahead to build a picture of what might be coming.

Clinician: In this report, when we talk about 'clinicians' we are referring to physicians and nurses in primary and secondary care.

Clinician survey

10-15-minute online survey

n=2,607 clinicians from 116 countries

April and May 2023

See the full report to explore the methodology and results in more detail.

Clinician of the Future 2023

The 2023 report takes a snapshot of clinician behavior and opinion that shows progress – or not – toward the possible futures we envisioned in the 2022 report. This new study, like the previous one, is based on the views of over 2,600 clinicians from 116 countries around the world.

By continuing to elevate the voices of clinicians, we can better understand the challenges they expect to face in the years ahead and consider how all healthcare stakeholders can partner with doctors and nurses to support them in providing the best care possible for their patients.

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Clinicians are seeking balance

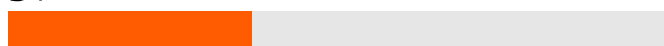*For details, see Chapter 1 on page 8 of the [full report](#)*

Clinicians enjoy their work, but more are considering leaving their roles (37%) than in 2022 (33%), and 13% are considering leaving healthcare altogether, with many (9%) retiring. Clinician shortage is a concern, particularly in the UK and the USA, and many are worried that newly qualified doctors did not get enough hands-on training due to COVID-19. Digital technology, including artificial intelligence (AI), could be part of the solution as we move toward the Future Balanced Clinician envisioned in the *[Clinician of the Future Report 2022](#)*.

86%
enjoy their jobs

37%
are considering leaving their jobs in the next 2–3 years

13%
are considering leaving healthcare in the next 2–3 years

54%
rate tackling the shortage of nurses as a priority

> "Nurse shortages and overall staff shortages are the normal now. Most are retiring within the next 10 years and new graduates seem to not have the drive."
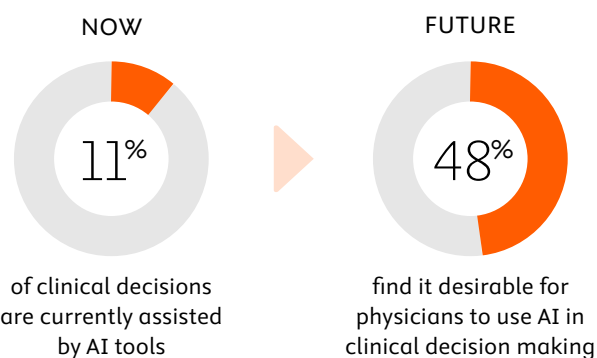>
> — Nurse (USA), 2023 survey

Technology and AI are empowering clinicians

For details, see Chapter 2 on page 19 of the [full report](#)

The dependency on technology has always been high among clinicians but the appetite for it as an enabling tool is increasing, as it is perceived to help address time pressures, create efficiencies and enhance clinical practice. There is an appetite to use generative AI tools to learn and inform their decision making, and a growing desire among clinicians to have digital technology expertise, especially as they anticipate using patient-collected data to help make decisions. The Future Tech-Savvy Clinician is closer than clinicians may have imagined: many of their predictions for healthcare a decade in the future now seem to be on the 2-3 year horizon. This includes using generative AI tools, though there are differences of opinion and debate around future use of AI.

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11% of clinical decisions are currently assisted by AI tools

48% find it desirable for physicians to use AI in clinical decision making

Clinicians say it's desirable for doctors and nurses to be digital experts
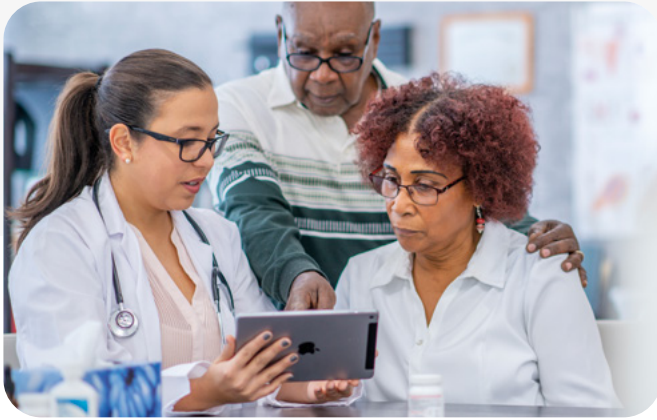
Doctors **73%**   Nurses **71%**

> "The combination of AI and the knowledge of doctors is a win win for the patient."
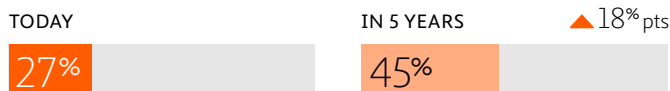>
> — Doctor (USA), 2023 survey

Knowledge and technology are transforming the clinician–patient relationship

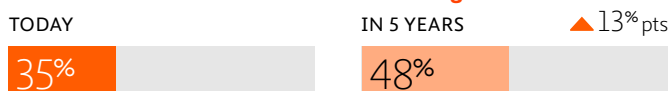*For details, see Chapter 3 on page 32 of the* *full report*

There is a trend towards patient empowerment, with clinicians expecting their health literacy, knowledge of social determinants of health (SDOH) and proactive health management to grow in the coming five years. As the use of digital technologies (e.g. wearables) increases and interactions become more virtual, clinicians may need to upskill. This progress toward the Future Partner for Health that we envisioned in the *Clinician of the Future Report 2022* will be supported by developments in digital technology.
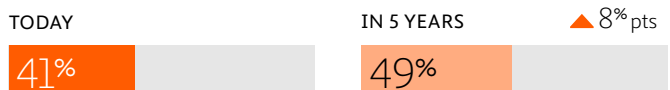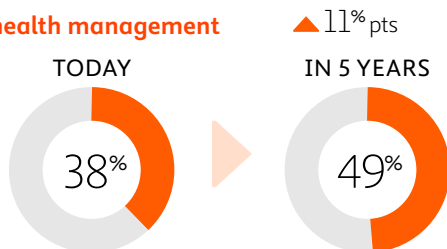
Use monitoring tools

TODAY | IN 5 YEARS | ▲18% pts
27% | 45%

Social Determinants of Health knowledge

TODAY | IN 5 YEARS | ▲13% pts
35% | 48%

Health literacy

TODAY | IN 5 YEARS | ▲8% pts
41% | 49%

Active health management | ▲11% pts

TODAY | IN 5 YEARS
38% | 49%

> "We need to invest more in preventive medicine and less in pharmacological treatments. We need a more concerned society in the importance of keeping oneself in good health, mentally and physically."
>
> — Doctor (Spain), 2023 survey

Clinicians imagine a value-based future

For details, see Chapter 4 on page 42 of the *full report*

Overall, clinicians have a positive sentiment toward value-based care, with most expecting it to reduce burden on secondary care and improve the patient experience while saving costs. They recognize the importance of moving to a preventive and personalized approach, noting there is still a journey ahead, including improving preventive care. Although value-based care is not yet a broad reality in most countries, some are moving towards it, and clinicians generally see this positively.

51%
of clinicians expect value-based care to lower costs

64%
believe patients will have more choice of which specialists they see

67%
believe quality of patient consultations will be higher

69%
expect hospital stays to be shorter

> "For-profit essential healthcare is the problem. It is delivered at 10 times the cost it should be."
>
> — Doctor (USA), 2023 survey

Solutions that address real challenges

Elsevier has played a role in healthcare by supporting clinicians for more than a century. Clinicians rely on our trusted, evidence-based content and clinical solutions to help improve patient outcomes. Elsevier Health's information, decision tools and analytics have evolved with the development of new technologies to ensure clinicians can make the most of cutting-edge solutions to benefit patient care.

This is a dynamic picture, and as new clinicians enter the workforce, the landscape will continue to shift. We conducted this 2023 survey to keep listening to clinicians, and we're not stopping here. Our next step on this journey is a survey of students on AI and a number of other topics.

We invite you to share your thoughts and input with us. With these insights, we can continue to develop solutions that help clinicians and their communities.

https://tinyurl.com/2023-COTF

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