The IT planning life cycle

Here are some examples of the possible steps in the IT life cycle, as suggested by authors George Hickman and Detlev Smaltz, 2008:

- **PHASE 1**: Requirements definition
  - Business case development
  - Concept description
- **PHASE 2**: Definition of the project scope
  - Requirements analysis
  - Design
  - Build
- **PHASE 3**: Development & implementation
  - Testing
  - Build
- **PHASE 4**: Post-implementation
  - Ongoing support
  - Post-implementation turnover management

The healthcare information technology planning fieldbook

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The healthcare information technology planning fieldbook

Hospitals and Health Systems

The importance of the multidisciplinary team

One of the key components of effective healthcare delivery is the multidisciplinary team, which includes physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and other experts who work together to provide patient care. The team approach is essential for ensuring that patients receive the best possible care and that resources are used efficiently. It is also important for patients to feel comfortable and confident in their providers.

The healthcare information technology planning fieldbook

To ensure that the team is effective, it is important to have clear communication and collaboration among team members. This can be facilitated through regular meetings, shared electronic health records, and other technology tools. In addition, it is important to have leadership that is committed to the success of the team and to provide the necessary resources and support.

The healthcare information technology planning fieldbook

The role of the CIO in managing multidisciplinary teams

As the CIO, it is important to ensure that the multidisciplinary team is well-coordinated and that the team members have the necessary resources and support to provide the best possible care. This can be achieved through the use of technology tools, such as electronic health records and other systems, and by providing training and education to team members. It is also important to have leadership that is committed to the success of the team and to provide the necessary resources and support.

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The importance of effective communication

Effective communication is essential for managing multidisciplinary teams and ensuring that patients receive the best possible care. This can be achieved through regular meetings, shared electronic health records, and other technology tools. It is also important to have leadership that is committed to the success of the team and to provide the necessary resources and support.

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Leveraging a New Generation of IT

The election is long over, the courts have spoken and health care reform is inevitable. But uncertainty may remain for some hospitals when it comes to their technology needs and how to prepare for clinical integration, population health and value-based reimbursement.

Should your hospital just make do with what it has, try to upgrade the existing IT infrastructure or scrap everything and start anew? Whatever the strategy, experts say it’s critical to compile an IT master plan now to prepare for the future of health care. Without one, leaders may end up with electronic health record systems that work individually for cardiology, orthopedics and the emergency department, but won’t “speak to each other” and will greatly limit how well physicians can coordinate, says Graham Brown, a vice president with the Camden Group consulting firm, who specializes in clinical integration and health IT strategy.

“The patients’ impact is going to be that they’re treated as though they’re in a silo every time they come in and get care, and the amount of staff effort involved in taking their medical history and understanding their medications and their allergies has to become manageable,” he says.

To achieve the necessary coordination needed in the reform era, Brown says hospitals and health systems must have a health information exchange that allows doctors to view clinical results across an entire network, from the primary care physician to the ED. Plus, providers should have a central data repository to view a patient’s history and better understand last hit or her needs. Risk adjustment and predictive-modeling tools are also key to understanding for whom they’re caring, which patients are the most acute and who is likely to become the most acute down the line.

But how do you know if your current IT systems are line or whether they’re in need of a gut job?

The IT planning life cycle

Here are some examples of the possible steps in the IT life cycle, as suggested by authors George Hickman and Dolph Shultz in their 2008 book, The Healthcare Information Technology Planning Fieldbook, along with a diagram of what the IT planning process may look like.

**Phase 1: Planning**
- Concept description
- Business case development
- Authorizations to proceed
- Budget support

**Phase 2: Selection and Acquisition**
- Requirements definition
- Build vs. buy decisions
- Vendor package fit to requirements
- Solution agreement
- Contracting

**Phase 3: Implementation**
- Project chartering, scope assurance, work planning and resourcing
- Design — technical, data, functional, workflow, workspace, roles, content
- Build
- Test — unit, volume, integration
- Education
- Go-live
- Post-implementation turnover management
- Post-implementation lessons learned

**Phase 4: Support**
- Ongoing support
- Technology upkeep
- Application upgrades and enhancements
- Integration support
- Content enhancements

*Source: The Healthcare Information Technology Planning Fieldbook, George Hickman and Dolph Shultz, 2008.*
BUSINESS CASE-DRIVEN DECISIONS

TAKING THE PULSE OF THE HEALTH IT FIELD — WHAT LIES AHEAD?

It is clear that IT planning and IT strategy are top priorities for health systems. An essential step in planning is to have clear goals and objectives that will drive the decision-making process.

One of the biggest challenges in IT planning is the need to align the IT strategic plan with the organization’s overall strategy. Lack of alignment can result in misallocation of resources and a lack of focus on what is truly important.

In addition to alignment, another key factor in IT planning is the level of IT investment required. Organizations need to determine whether the investment is justified and how it will impact the organization’s overall financial health.

Another aspect of IT planning is the need to prioritize initiatives. Organizations need to identify which initiatives are most critical and allocate resources accordingly.

Finally, IT planning requires ongoing assessment and evaluation. It is important to regularly assess the IT strategic plan to ensure that it is still relevant and aligned with the organization’s goals.

The IT planning process is a critical component of any healthcare organization. By following best practices in IT planning, organizations can ensure that their IT strategies are aligned with their overall goals and objectives.

KEY IT PLANNING PRINCIPLES

1. IT strategic alignment
2. IT investment justification
3. IT initiative prioritization
4. Ongoing IT planning assessment

The IT planning process should be driven by the strategic needs of the organization, not just the IT needs. By focusing on the strategic needs, organizations can ensure that their IT investments are aligned with their overall goals and objectives.

For more information on IT planning and strategy, please see the following resources:

- The Healthcare Information Technology Planning Fieldbook
- The IT Strategic Planning Toolkit
- The IT Roadmap: A Comprehensive Guide to Developing an IT Strategic Plan

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The IT Planning Process

The IT planning process can be divided into six key stages: Assessment, Strategy, Design, Implementation, Operations, and Evaluation.

Assessment:

- Identify the current IT environment
- Understand the current IT capabilities and capacities
- Identify gaps between current and desired states

Strategy:

- Establish IT goals and objectives
- Develop IT strategies to meet goals
- Align IT strategies with organizational strategy

Design:

- Develop IT plans and initiatives
- Prioritize IT initiatives
- Plan for IT resources

Implementation:

- Execute IT plans
- Monitor IT performance
- Adjust IT plans as needed

Operations:

- Maintain IT systems
- Manage IT risks
- Support IT services

Evaluation:

- Assess IT performance
- Evaluate IT effectiveness
- Identify areas for improvement

By following these steps, organizations can ensure that their IT planning process is effective and aligned with their overall goals and objectives.

Texas Health Resources

L eading Texas Health Resources with avid advocacy, seasoned leadership teams, and a dedicated staff of caregivers, Texas Health Resources has a long-standing tradition of excellence. The system has grown to include over 40 hospitals and 1,200 physicians, with a patient census of more than 86,000 per year.

One of the system's strengths is its focus on population health and its dedication to improving the health of the communities it serves. By providing high-quality care and support, Texas Health Resources aims to improve the overall health of the communities it serves.

Case Study: Texas Health Resources

Texas Health Resources is making a push to make as much of the health care experience as possible digital. The system was the first in the nation to adopt a fully digital medical record system in 2001, which has since grown to include more than 4.7 million electronic health records.

IT-related issues and subjects:

- IT-related issues
- IT-related subjects

These IT-related issues and subjects are important considerations when planning for IT. By understanding these issues, organizations can better prepare for the challenges that come with IT planning.

The following IT-related issues and subjects are important considerations:

- IT-related problems
- IT-related solutions

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**TUESDAY/THURSDAY**
Commentary on health care topics from well-known H&HN Daily and guest contributors

**FRIDAY**
Beyond the C-Suite: Original content from Trustee and HFM Magazine

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