GuideIT

How to Steer Clear of the 3 Most Common EHR Migration Setbacks

Improved patient experience. More efficient clinical workflows. Stronger analytics and scalability. If you're upgrading your healthcare organization's EHR system, you're looking for these outcomes.

But to find those holy grails, you have to ensure a few aspects of your EHR migration go off without a hitch. Hiccups during this process cause real risks: disruption to patient care, non-compliance, cost overruns, clinician burnout, and more.

Avoid those risks and achieve real EHR migration success using these three keys we've gathered from 30+ years of experience moving healthcare orgs to new EHRs:

There's no such thing as too much planning.

If you've never been a part of an EHR migration, over-planning is your friend. Even if you've done it before, each migration is different. The following are essential considerations:

- **Resources:** Will you rely on in-house folks, a third-party migration expert, or both?
- **Timing:** When do you need certain patient data to be ready in your new EHR?
- **Volume:** How many patient records — and what types — need to move to the new system?
- **Change management:** How will you ensure the successful adoption of the EHR?
- **Validation:** How will you perform quality assurance on your migrated data?

Be prepared for data abstraction to go out of scope.

Healthcare executives often trip up scoping and budgeting for data abstraction and migration. It's one of the heftiest parts of the project and involves multiple people, milestones, and processes.

Don't underestimate the length or breadth of data abstraction, and ask your migration partner for guidance on budgeting and road-mapping.

Don't make QA an afterthought.

In EHR migrations, quality assurance cannot come after go-live or even just before it. QA must be a continuous task performed throughout the project. Testing and validation should begin as soon as data migration starts because every transfer presents an opportunity for data duplication or loss.

Your data accuracy, integrity, and completeness are the fulcrums of your migration's success.

Curious if your EHR migration is on the right track? Get a free executive advisory session from GuideIT where we assess your environment and provide custom guidance on your transition.