

The Top 5 Risks Involved in Moving EHRs — And How to Avoid Them

As a healthcare executive, you're likely aware that electronic health record (EHR) transitions present some risks — you just might not know exactly what those risks are. Your EHR migration is complex, high-stakes, and ideally one of the smartest technology moves you'll ever make. But without the right approach to implementation, these five risks pose a threat to your organization:

1.) Data integrity failures

If you improperly map, move, or validate data from your legacy system to your new one, you risk lost or misrepresented patient information. Clinicians then have to go searching for the right data, or worse — make harmful mistakes with patients. It's critical to establish a clear plan for data conversion — governed by an expert team — to ensure you preserve data integrity through your EHR transition.

2.) Security and compliance gaps

Amateur or in-house data conversion plans sometimes create vulnerabilities. Data in motion is especially vulnerable, so working with a data abstraction partner who can implement security controls is a smart way to close the compliance gaps.

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EHR migrations can strain your internal IT and clinical teams, especially if they are working overtime to convert patient records to your new system. Mapping out timelines, work requirements, resource loads, waves of data abstraction, and milestones achieved is crucial for mitigating burnout.

4.) Hidden costs

Underestimating the demands of the migration can result in budget blowout. It's also common for executives to miscalculate the expense of maintaining or archiving legacy systems. Plan early for decommissioning time and costs.

5.) Workflow disruption

Clinicians need training on your new EHR, and they need it early in the transition process. To avoid operational inefficiencies after go-live, plan for consistent training sessions as you migrate.

The Bottom Line

Knowing what obstacles lie in wait is the first step to avoiding them. You can easily skip all of the above with the right plan and data abstraction program. GuideIT offers a free executive advisory session to deliver guidance on your transition and tips on how to make your migration disruption-free.

[Schedule your session here.](#)