The Future of Health Information Technology in Emergency Medicine

The emergency department (ED) is a crucial component of a hospital's ability to care for critically ill and injured patients. In the United States, the ED handles 28% of all acute care visits. It also serves as the bridge between the outpatient and inpatient worlds. About 81.8% of unscheduled admissions to the hospital now come through the ED, according to the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) 2013 report.

Modern emergency medicine providers are facing unprecedented increases in patient volume; making patient throughput and efficiency more important than ever. Health Information Technology (HIT) plays a critical role in patient management and can either break or make a clinician's workflow.

Emergency Department Visits Continue to Rise
Visits to the ED have risen over the past several years and are expected to keep rising. A lack of primary care providers and an increase in insured patients have created a surplus of patients who have little choice but to turn to the ED for treatment. Besides the critically ill and injured, many people choose the ED simply because they don’t have a primary care provider and can’t get one.

Providers Have to Meet Higher Standards
Emergency medicine providers have been tasked with handling huge increases in patient load, and making sure patients who are admitted have a smooth transition into the hospital. HIT is a big part of their ability to manage these tasks. Patient throughput, efficiency, and treatment outcomes are more important than ever, and a robust platform is needed to support today's healthcare professional.

Ease of Use is Paramount
Providers are looking for systems that make their lives easier, not more complicated. Due to the time-critical nature of emergency medicine, ease of use shows up as the top concern among emergency care professionals. Providers need a solution that will not slow them down, and can keep up with a demanding pace. The ability to quickly and easily generate robust reports is also an essential component, especially as healthcare moves in a direction where data mining and business intelligence are of ever-growing importance. This is due in no small part to the increased demand to coordinate care.

Investing in Emergency Medicine
Bravado Health’s flagship product, ScriptRx, is utilized in EDs across the country for discharge planning, medication management, care coordination, and follow-up and referral management. We continually develop new applications and enhancements which make it easier for emergency medicine professionals to provide the highest level of care in the most efficient manner—without the hassles of other cumbersome systems.

Bravado Health is currently building a new reporting platform, designed specifically to help emergency facilities and providers identify opportunities through data analytics and business intelligence to manage population health and coordinate care.

About Bravado Health
Bravado Health’s mission is to support our clients’ efforts in being the premier provider of clinical care in the communities they serve. Every day we help hospitals, clinics, and practices increase efficiency while improving both treatment outcomes and financial returns.

Founded by emergency physicians, Bravado Health is a nationally recognized leader in Emergency Medicine applications and services. We continually invest in the latest technology, because we believe the modern healthcare provider should have the right tools to provide care with the best possible outcomes and highest level of patient satisfaction.

For additional emergency medicine news and resources, visit bravadohealth.com.

1. Carrier, Emily R., Kellermann, Arthur L. “Where Americans Get Acute Care: Increasingly, It’s Not At Their Doctor’s Office.” Health Aff September 2010 vol. 29 no. 9 1620-1629  http:/ /content.healthaffairs.org/content/29/9/1620.full.html