



TEN TOP TIPS ON THE LONG ROAD TO A PAPERLESS NHS

1

Examine the options of 'digital first'.

Is it possible to combine paper and digital in the short-term to future-proof data in healthcare but without making a painful impact on service?



Analyse **where digital can be most easily and effectively utilised** to cope with modern demands and improve the standard of healthcare.

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When a **patient appointment** is made it can kick off a process to recall the necessary paperwork. Rather than being delivered on paper this could be **scanned and made available at the necessary time**.



Consider **storing records offsite**, releasing space for core activity. Outsource the management of onsite records to an expert.

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Convert as many physical records into digital records as possible but beware of assuming that scanning all records is the answer. However, without careful indexing and metadata being added (often a costly exercise) this can create significant problems.



Implications of the forthcoming **EU General Data Protection Regulation**. This regulation provides extra rights for European citizens so one of the biggest hurdles we face is **how to make data shareable and searchable**.

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Utilise systems to **link physical and digital records**.



Utilise new systems to **link consultants' diaries to accessible patient records**.

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Health-tracking apps and web resources offer huge potential to the health of the population, as do smart buildings and wearables with sensors built into our living environment.



Put systems in place to prevent data breaches. Trusts probably won't admit they lose records, but they do. Many NHS employees don't see this as 'lost' or as a data breach – but patients and the regulators may think differently.

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The power of memory

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