A Shift to Solve the Physician Shortage Problem and Reduce Clinician Burden

Perceiving a Paperless System for Hospitals For the Benefit of People and Environment

Table of Contents

01

The Physician Shortage Problem under COVID-19 All Over the World

COVID-19 has been a challenging time for the global ecosystem, where every major department faced logistical damages that were quite hard to recover from. The healthcare department, the most immediate department to face repercussions and consequences of the pandemic, was bound to see the challenging times ahead. Where the healthcare system was already lacking human resources, things just became extremely difficult for them.

The first issue reported across the sector was the physician shortage reported across all major hospitals worldwide. Physicians have the bare responsibility of handling all patients admitted across the hospital. The COVID-19 pandemic hit differently, and the recovery and rehabilitation of patients took more workforce and management. No immediate or appropriate automation source could be introduced for this system, which led to a potential decrease in the physician shortage.
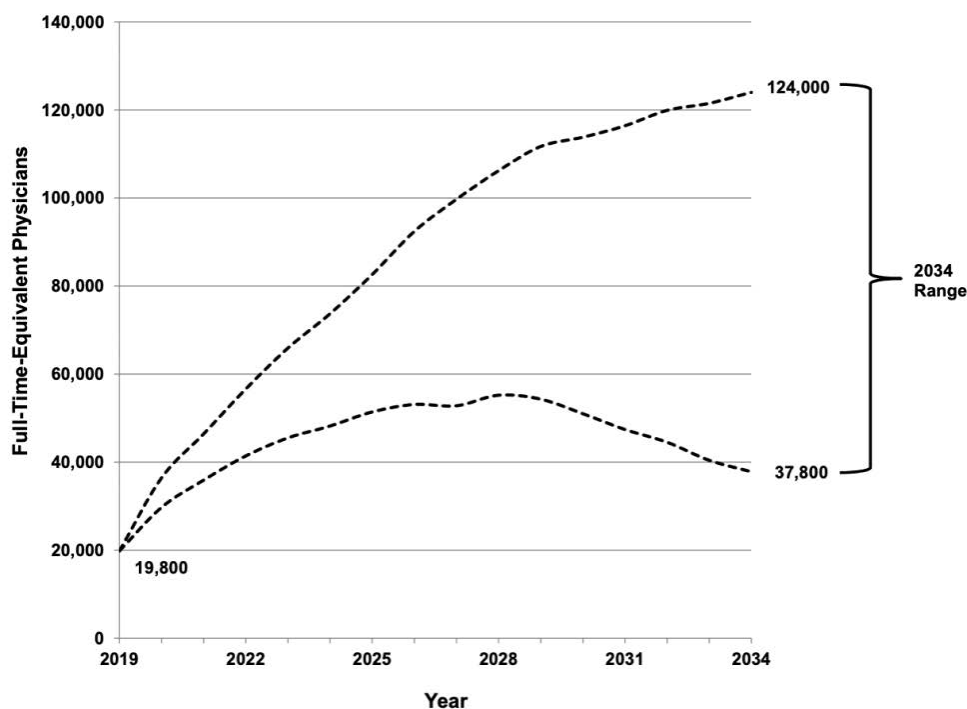
Source: AAMC.ORG

Many countries have already recognized the issue and have projected this problem for the incoming years. COVID-19 sped up everything, and physicians ran short of hospitals with the pandemic outbreak. It exacerbated a potential issue that became extremely difficult to cover worldwide. Countries like the United States of America held their hands high due to this issue. The losses were heavy, destabilizing everything involved or connected to it. The workforce report presented a potential shortage of 17,800 to 48,000 primary care physicians and 4,000 to 13,400 specialty physicians. These numbers are existentially threatening to the overall system of the healthcare industry. The need to change the dynamics of the department became necessary, and the responsible authorities are moving towards preserving a digitized model that can offer them security and the autonomy to induce a competent workforce with minimal physician shortage issues.

The long-term impact of physician shortage is alarming, where the numbers are not supporting the healthcare institutions, eventually putting them out of competition in all terms. The need to change the nature of operations is necessary to be applied.
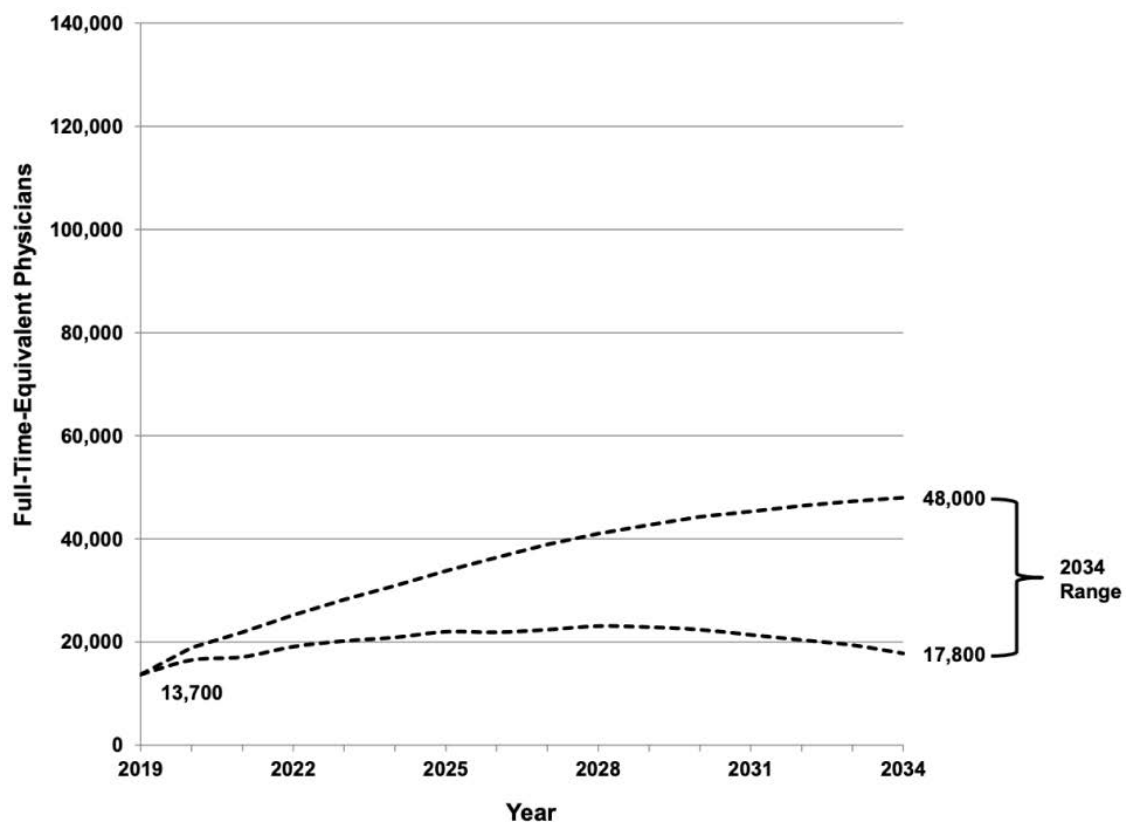
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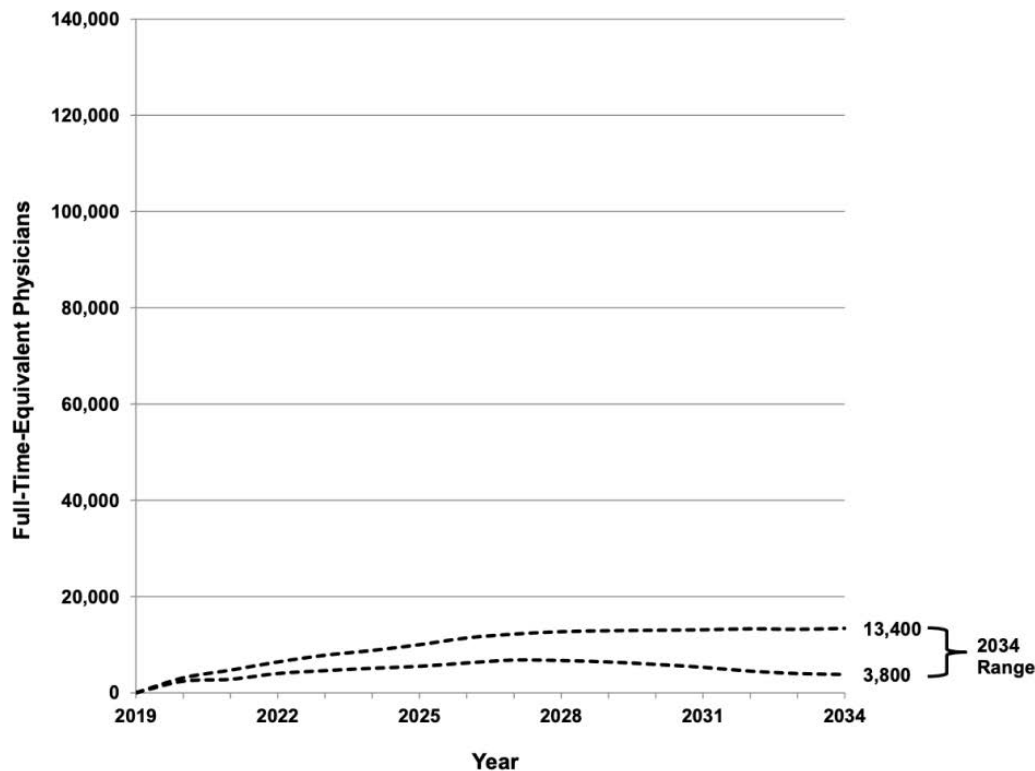
Source: AAMC.ORG

02

Old-Fashioned Healthcare Institutions Will Be Out of Competition

The traditional healthcare system has miserably failed after the COVID-19 outbreak. Although the problems prevailed and there was criticism over the healthcare system model no ma or failure made countries rethink the current management procedures. This part will focus on how traditional hospitals have been operating and managing their systems.

Following an overview of their model all significant problems and situations will be discussed in detail. This will help analyze how the old-fashioned institutions are getting out of the competition.

How Traditional Hospitals Have Been Running Their Procedures

The focus will first be asserted on the traditional systems featured across the hospitals. From patient applications to their operation documentation everything has been covered across papers. Talking about their services and process management traditional hospitals call their patients to fill out forms about their medical problems before consulting with the doctor. With these paper forms, the doctors assess the

condition of their patients and proceed with their observation and medical arrangements. Following this, doctors operating their clinics or hospitals under traditional models require the need to print out prescriptions for additional payments on paper. This was associated with different peripherals which led to a hefty cost that needed to be covered to ensure the management of the system. Another highlighting situation faced across traditional hospitals is the need to store all medical data in paper format. The medical forms of every patient, health records of people visiting the hospital and patient reports of every test processed by the hospital are kept on paper.

This requires a lot of space and paper which is apparent mismanagement and a waste of resources for the hospital. While this requires a lot of room for managing all documents finding one is another strenuous task that must be considered. These problems, when highlighted make work management across healthcare institutions difficult. More human resources are required to control this department, which can be a waste of capital on the workforce that can be minimized to the lowest levels.

This puts the patient and the hospital in grave problems , which seems disastrous when put into observation with COVID-19. With long hours of waiting and minimal data available across the system, no digital systems and procedures manage the patients and their problems.

Under such an environment, there is a minimal chance that a patient is appropriately addressed by the nursing staff, hospital staff, and doctor. Miscommunication is evident under such a traditional model and hospitals will have to take up responsibility for the mismanagement of any patient, which can be fatal with high chances. Transitioning to a better management system is required as this seems to be the only direction any hospital can take to improve its patient management.

03

Embrace Digital Transformation in Healthcare – Make a Paperless Hospital

Hospitals are meant to be the ambassadors of a clean environment, providing health facilities that make people get out of illness. As they help people get better, they also have to ensure the highest levels of environmental protection. Realizing this point, the use of paper should be something that hospitals avoid in every possible case. Although this is a hefty department to manage entirely, these are such things that

they should never compromise on. While hospitals get rid of the traditional systems and transform to digital techniques, they should set up a paperless environment that caters to the needs of the doctors and patients. Setting up such a model is not complex, but it requires some nerve to decide. In this part, we have provided an outline of how a hospital can embrace digital transformation in the healthcare industry.

■ Simplify the Treatment Process and Improving the Productivity of the Treatment

Medical treatment, as stated before, has been an exceptionally flawed system in the traditional healthcare industry model. Digitizing the sector has presented a simplified version of the treatment of patients, resulting in a productive result. The following points will highlight some critical points that can help manage the treatment process across a healthcare institution:

- Registering patients and their problems can be done online across a basic form where any individual can fill out the details without printing out papers and getting into lines to submit them. Quick, effective, and efficient hospital portals can easily accompany the need of the patients.

- With the form, report, or any other detail submitted across the portal the doctor can quickly check the patient's details without printing any paper. This saves paper and makes communication easier for the patient and doctor.

- Hospitals require an Patient consent Form for every other operation that is being processed. Although this included a detailed form printed out every time an operation was scheduled this could be changed to digital signing with the help of the right tool. With a secure eSign facility, patients can quickly sign such documents without printing any form.

## Saving Paper and Storage Costs and Ensuring a Secure System for Medical Records

Using paper took up a high cost, which was incurred by the storage required to keep all the paper records. Medical records are essential and have to be preserved in all cases. The need to save paper and storage costs also became necessary, which was replaced with a reliable, cheap, and improved system. To execute this digital transformation, a representation of the right points has been provided:

- All medical documents, which include the records, forms, and other details, should be saved and archived in PDF/A file format. This helps hospitals save all the data that is taking up their space, with no threats of the data being breached.

- The cost of the complete process of paper and storage can be cast out with the help of digital systems. With minimal expenses, all documents can be easily managed, with no data being compromised within the hospital.

- Finding someone's record with traditional systems is the most challenging thing in such situations. To prevent this from happening, digital systems have been offering a method to find someone easily with the available tools.

- Hospitals can protect every document submitted or preserved by them at different times. While using passwords they can prevent unauthorized access to their data, which ensures the confidentiality of the information that is being managed.

Data Solutions for Healthcare Department for Storing Medical Documents

While storing medical documents in digital format, there are cases where there are paper documents. This, however, is not a problem that cannot be covered or answered. All the data of the documents submitted in paper format can be extracted using OCR technology to create editable PDF forms. This extraction methodology helps out the hospital in extracting all the necessary data that has been taken across paper forms. This is how a hospital can easily store data across a single platform without compromising anything.
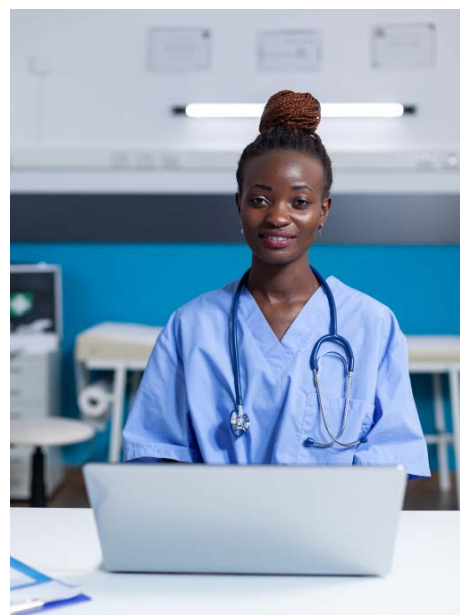
04

UPDF - The Important Tool on Healthcare Digital Transformation

What does a hospital need to ensure all digital transformations of the most significant scale? UPDF is a PDF editor providing the services of managing PDF documents and providing users with a paperless environment to eliminate all problems involving healthcare systems.

Where there are many tools in the market, a professional user will always look for something that provides everything in a single platform. UPDF is one such platform that bases its operations and features a system that helps users efficiently manage PDF documents. From managing to editing documents, everything can be easily performed across UPDF.

How are hospitals benefitting from this tool in presenting a digitally transformed system? The following points are a clear explanation of how UPDF benefits the hospital and all stakeholders involved in the process:

- Edit and manage the forms that are to be filled out by the patients. They can easily open it across the editor and change anything they have according to their requirements. The editor tool it offered by UPDF allows users to change the text, images, and lines across a UPDF.

- Viewing PDFs is exceptionally easy across UPDF. While it is a great reader it provides different reading modes with an annotation facility that allows consultants to easily mark the documents so they can discuss them easily with their patients. Such interactive tools provide doctors with the perfect option of highlighting the essential points they need to discuss.

- Hospital staff doctors and patients have the autonomy to put comments or notes across the forms and medical documents that can be discussed with the respective party easily. Different stamps can be used across documents to mark something important.

- Features a system for signing documents that the patients can electronically sign without printing the form. While they can sign this using the keyboard or a mouse they can save time for all individuals involved in the process. The signatures are legally binding and provide the same significance as the ones on the paper.

- Allows the hospital managers to archive the documents into PDF/A by converting all documents they want to preserve. While other users cannot access or breach the data across these documents this can be a great way to maintain data.

- Protect the PDF documents that contain essential patient information and details with passwords. allows hospital managers to put in passwords to their essential documents and prevent them from being breached by any other users.

- Searching through data across the platform is exceptionally simple. With intuitive and interactive elements provided in the platform doctors or patients can search through specific data and discover information that is needed at the moment.

- The OCR facility offered by UPDF reads through the data across a scanned document and converts it into an editable document. This is proficiently great and efficient as patients and doctors can save papers and digitize the process at any instant they want to. OCR by UPDF is a great tool as the results are effective and perfect. UPDF ensures that the user experience is excellent for every stakeholder involved.

The paradigm shift caused by COVID-19 has been everchanging for most industries worldwide. Since healthcare also faced many logistics issues, it has been looking towards changing its major systems and official procedures. The first thing that they focused on was to change themselves into a paperless model. This whitepaper has been the epitome of the change, explaining how the hospitals will execute the transition and transformation with the help of tools like UPDF.

Have any questions, please let us know at
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