# Artificial Intelligence Use in Healthcare Growing Fast

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Just as healthcare professionals were starting to get comfortable with mobile health's (mHealth) entrance into the field, they are now staring down the new kid on the block: artificial intelligence (AI).

AI isn't brand new to healthcare or health information management (HIM)—after all, the profession is well acquainted with computer-assisted coding and natural language processing. But a new survey by HIMSS and *Healthcare IT News* demonstrates even broader expansion of AI in healthcare within two to five years.[1] The survey found that 35 percent of IT professionals working in the C-suite of healthcare organizations plan to leverage AI solutions within two years, and 50 percent intend to do so in five years.

The survey found the biggest opportunities for AI fall directly in line with HIM's responsibilities, including areas such as clinical decision support, hospital/physician workflow, population health, security, and revenue cycle.

The barriers slowing AI's advance are the same that keep mHealth on the margins, such as lack of buy-in from executives and physicians and difficulty integrating with existing health IT systems, the survey found.

And yet, the technology holds huge promise, especially if you consider digital assistants such as Amazon's Alexa, Google Home, and Microsoft's Cortana to be AI solutions. Amazon and Merck are working together to award $125,000 to developers who find a way to integrate home assistants into solutions designed to help individuals with type 2 diabetes[2] Contest sponsors believe digital home assistants could greatly improve medication adherence and the lifestyle changes necessary to comply with diabetes treatments—such as AI serving as a personal treatment coach.

"This isn't just a device that we're going to attach to you to monitor you—we don't need another monitoring device in the home," said Nathan Treloar, president and COO of Orbita, a Boston-based provider that debuted a cloud-based platform and interface for intelligent voice assistants at HIMSS17, in an interview with *mHealth Intelligence*.[3] "We're looking at the whole health experience, and a way to connect experiences and close that last mile of communication."

## Notes

1. Sullivan, Tom. "Half of hospitals to adopt artificial intelligence within 5 years." *Healthcare IT News*. April 11, 2017.
2. mHealth Intelligence. "Amazon Alexa Challenge Envisions an mHealth Care Management Tool." April 11, 2017.
3. Ibid.

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