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In the News.....IT Healthcare

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We believe that in the transformation of the US healthcare systems, the use of the iPad and other such "tablets" will accelerate providers' mobility. During the pre-iPad period, revolutionary use tablets were incredibly well received by providers, even though the systems were slower, heavier and more expensive than today's iPad. Clearly with as many as eight new tablets about to hit the market we expect that they will quickly be applied to EHR. The Quantum Group's product already runs today on the iPad and future improvements will make it run faster, using even less memory space. Similar to the 1970s and 1980s as medical providers used "pagers" or cell phones; they will soon be using their iPads at restaurants and other casual places, not just in their offices or hospitals.

New Tablet Computer Options Offer Choices for Medical Community

Updates to tablet computer technology and a surge in new devices, such as Apple's iPad, have observers wondering whether physicians will make tablets their mobile device of choice.¹

Use of Tablet Devices

Since the iPad was released in January 2010, several health care initiatives have been launched using the tool. For example:

- Georgetown University has provided iPads to surgeons to use in operating rooms;
- Skilled nursing facility operator RehabCare deployed iPads throughout its system;
- Stanford University School of Medicine has given iPads to students; and
- Many physicians have adopted the devices for various uses.

Eighty different tablet models are expected to be released in the next year to compete with the iPad, which will give health care providers more choices.

Meanwhile, numerous vendors of electronic health record systems are developing applications that allow physicians to access EHRs through a tablet.

Uncertain Future

Although using cloud-based EHRs means patient data would not be stored on a tablet, organizations still must develop ways to secure the devices.² Hospitals are expressing concern about the implications of widespread adoption of such devices because of possible security risks to medical data.

In addition, many physicians say that despite the usefulness of tablets, they can never fully replace desktop computers. Some doctors note that information input on the iPad is best restricted to brief note-taking because of its small touch-screen keyboard.

¹ [*American Medical News*](#)

² *American Medical News*