**Why are databases important in healthcare?**

In the healthcare industry of today, staying current is extremely important. Using the latest products and information systems available doctors can collect needed patient data and [chart concurrently](https://www.foreseemed.com/blog/concurrent-coding) at the point of care or shortly after. Fast and accurate database systems are critical to healthcare because they provide access to massive amounts of patient data information at the click of a mouse or the tap of a screen. The importance of accurate data in healthcare can mean the difference between life and death to that specific patient and to the larger collective of patients as a whole. Today, doctors at every moment of the care process need instant access to the most up to date and accurate patient information possible.

**Healthcare data storage challenges**

Some question the problems that arise in relation to the security of data collection in healthcare and these issues shouldn’t be dismissed. When deciding whether to implement a new data collection system or not, be sure to take these points into consideration.

**Security of data**

Protecting and keeping sensitive data secure has always been an important issue not only in the medical field. Companies have to face numerous laws and restrictions when it comes to data storage. For example, a stolen computer from an insurance company may result in a million-dollar fine. A good alternative for keeping data secure is turning to cloud-based storage since most if not all of the security issues are managed by the vendor.

**Low data quality**

One of the biggest challenges is the quality of patient data. Some database systems are far superior to others and costs vary greatly. Also consider the process of medical data collection itself. For example, handwritten and then scanned notes can be a relatively slow process and be prone to mistakes, creating low quality patient data.

**Difficulties in collaboration**

Doctors use different methods for entering patient data into their charts. Some use [EHR systems](https://www.foreseemed.com/blog/ehr-software-and-interoperability), while others prefer traditional spreadsheets or even paper documents. Some physicians don’t allow others access to certain documents, and others grant access just to certain specialists. The way medical data is written also matters because not all doctors speak the same way. Every doctor has a unique style and vision. This makes it quite difficult to cooperate, especially virtually.

**Final thoughts**

The importance of data collection in healthcare cannot be understated because it helps professionals assess many different important factors. Whether used for personal, public, or governmental matters, data collection and analysis tools help to get a clearer picture of a patient’s health, manage information quickly, and share it with other providers. Effective collection and management of information can be a key to the engagement of patients, lead to better treatments and save the healthcare industry valuable resources.