8 reasons to embrace cloud technology in healthcare

How do you make a business case for transition to the cloud?

Potential cost savings of up to $600,000 over a decade should seal the deal but other workplace and environmental benefits can flow from making the change. Here are eight reasons why cloud technology is essential to healthcare:

1. Interoperability is the future

Interoperability isn't just a passing trend. Governments worldwide are moving towards legislating information sharing 'by default' and cloud technology ensures real-time information exchange at the point of care. In contrast, non-cloud technologies, including cloud-bridging platforms, introduce multiple risks, ranging from data integrity to security and governance issues. Cloud-based EHRs (Electronic Health Records) provide superior interoperability, enabling more coordinated and integrated care.

2. Cost analysis: Cloud vs On-Premise

When it comes to the financial aspects of healthcare, cloud solutions offer undeniable benefits. Consider the following estimated costs associated with cloud and on-premise solutions for a 10 doctor practice.

	On-Premise	Cloud	Savings
Year 1	$ 113,500	$ 24,500	$89,000
Year 3	$ 272,500	$ 73,500	$199,000
Year 5	$ 427,500	$122,500	$305,000
Year 10	$ 855,000	$ 245,000	$610,000

* The information provided in the table represents averages only and is based on data obtained from online sources.

3. Operational efficiency

From minimised IT overheads to consolidation of services and identity management, cloud technology can reshape how your business operates. It offers universal access, strengthens data security, supports single source systems, and much more. Adopting the cloud doesn't just mean upgrading technology; it enables overhauling and enhancing the operational fabric of your organisation.

4. Unparalleled scalability

The adaptability of cloud applications is noteworthy. In a landscape that's continuously evolving, cloud-based solutions can manage unpredictable usage patterns, support multi-party usage, and adapt to regulatory changes swiftly. With unparalleled scalability, cloud solutions are equipped to handle increasing data volumes, user counts, and evolving stakeholder needs.

5. Compatibility with a casualised workforce

The post-pandemic healthcare workforce is increasingly casualised, with flexible work arrangements. The telemedicine sector is growing. Digital platforms underpin these changes, fostering work-from-anywhere telecommuting and freelance opportunities. Cloud technology is central to these workforce trends, facilitating innovative healthcare models for providers -- and consumers.

6. Meeting patient expectations

Patients commonly expect digital solutions such as online appointment bookings, e-prescriptions, and quick access to telemedicine. Beyond the functionality, they value a personalised touch to their care and more involvement in decision making. Digital healthcare, powered by cloud technology, enables safety improvements, real-time access to information, and an enhanced patient experience.

7. Environmental benefits

According to research by Amazon, cloud computing can decrease carbon emissions by approximately 60%-70%. This not only reflects more sustainable utilisation of resources like water, but also effective management of waste products when decommissioning hardware. As opposed to traditional data centers, cloud data centers are known to be significantly more energy efficient. Transition to the cloud means reducing the carbon footprint of your health business.

8. Virtual care: The way forward

With virtual care rising in popularity, especially in Australia, integrated patient data systems are crucial. Cloud-based EHR solutions offer healthcare providers location-agnostic access to patient data, ensuring comprehensive care, whether provided remotely or in-clinic.

In summary, the transition to cloud technology in the healthcare sector isn't just a tech upgrade; it's a holistic approach to meeting modern business challenges. Estimated costs savings over 10-years for a 10-doctor practice exceed $600,000 and this doesn't take into account the environmental benefits and peace of mind that come with outsourcing operations to a trusted partner. Whether you're a startup or an established player, cloud technology offers superior interoperability, operational efficiency, scalability, and cost-effectiveness. It is an essential pillar for reshaping the healthcare landscape for the betterment of patients, providers, and the environment.

How can MediRecords help?

MediRecords is Australia's leading cloud electronic health record and patient management system, providing cloud-based solutions to support the needs of primary care, hospitals, health departments and innovative virtual care providers.

Get in contact with our Sales team to request a demonstration of our product!

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