

PRESS CLIP

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Emerging technologies holds potential to impact the Indian healthcare ecosystem

KOLKATA : A digital disruption is required in order to radically change the way Indian healthcare ecosystem operates and emerging technologies have the potential to positively impact the healthcare ecosystem. This view was expressed in a new report jointly released here on Friday by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) and Price Waterhouse Coopers. Titled 'Reimagining the possible in the Indian healthcare ecosystem with emerging technologies' the report has pointed out that Indian healthcare ecosystem faces numerous challenges like shortage of qualified doctors and nurses and skewed access to healthcare facilities across India, even as the patients are also not acting proactively for disease prevention. The report which was released at 'Healthcare IT Survey 2018' in presence of senior executives

from leading healthcare providers in India to understand their views on current technology adoption in Indian healthcare ecosystem has also found that because of lack of a healthcare regulatory body there was large concern among healthcare providers regarding the reliability of medical devices. As a result the practitioners preferred to use traditional medical devices, the report said adding although the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, became effective on 1 January 2018, their effectiveness was yet to be seen. About lack of collaboration between various stakeholders, the report stated that though Government of India had set up standards for sharing statistics among healthcare providers, the sharing of clinical data between healthcare stakeholders still remained a far-fetched goal in India. In some cases the sharing of information within the

same entity was not seamless as some big hospital chains in India had been using different Hospital Information Systems (HIS) across different locations. About maintaining privacy and security of healthcare data which was a major concern, the report stated that in absence of adequate laws many medical devices in the healthcare ecosystem run on public networks and there was no regulation for ensuring secure management of such data. The lack of India-specific clinical data was a shared concern, while the cost of collecting and testing this data was also currently enormous. According to Dr. Alok Roy, BCCI Past President, the Chamber always endeavoured to connect technology end users with developers in co-creating better environment for systems with better enterprise planning, easier manufacturing process, and faster services at lesser costs.