

Among businesses and consumers alike, cloud solutions are thriving. As health systems look to contain information technology costs and meet the demands of value-based care, the shift from on-premise IT solutions to the cloud will continue its exponential growth.

A few years ago, healthcare professionals largely depended on cloud-based solutions for back-office needs, such as email and data storage, or supporting the secure exchange of patient information. A 2016 HIMSS Analytics survey of 105 healthcare industry IT professionals shows that the use case is quickly expanding to include clinical applications such as clinical collaboration platforms.

## Simple, Scalable and Secure

Today's IT professionals are making thoughtful decisions about their technology investments. IT budgets and resources are pulled in multiple directions. Health systems are balancing current technology demands across the enterprise while trying to plan for the future. They recognize the potential of a clinical collaboration platform's ability to improve patient care. Here's how a cloud-based solution can maximize an organization's technology investments:

**EASE OF IMPLEMENTATION:** Cloud-based clinical collaboration platforms eliminate the need for time- and labor-intensive on-site installations. That means the solution can be implemented and deployed in a fraction of the time—often in weeks instead of months. Cloud-based systems offer on-demand capacity. They have the ability to scale more quickly and efficiently than on-premise solutions, which require adding servers and hardware.

**CARE COLLABORATION:** Improvements in care quality, delivery and outcomes hinge on the collaboration and seamless communication of multiple providers. Cloud services enable providers across different facilities in different geographic areas to share information securely and easily, enhancing the workflows of care teams and improving the patient experience. Having clinical information readily available regardless of the location of the patient or clinician helps stakeholders make timely, informed decisions.

Consider a busy independent orthopedic practice serving two competing hospitals. A cloud-based clinical collaboration system links the three organizations together, allowing them to view on-call schedules, share clinical information and send secure messages. The three entities become one care community instead of three siloed organizations.

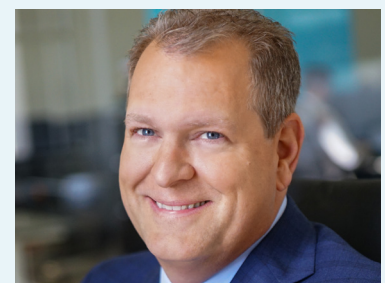
**COST:** Health system IT professionals are under pressure to shift from capital-intensive technology investments to operational expenses that offer flexibility and improved collaboration. A cloud-based clinical collaboration platform eliminates the need for software or hardware infrastructure, reducing many upfront costs needed for equipment and scheduled maintenance, not to mention skilled IT personnel.

## Finding the Right Vendor

If your health system is considering adopting a clinical collaboration platform, make sure you are investing in a platform that can scale. A company that is mature and understands cloud can provide the level of experience your organization requires—whether you're provisioning one hospital or several.



## Author



### JON JANSEN

Chief Solutions Architect,  
Halo Communications

Jon is responsible for integrating health system networks, particularly the critical areas of programming secure interfaces between hospitals, EMRs and clinician data. With more than two decades of experience in the secure healthcare communication arena, Jon is an important resource not only for the development of the platform, but for our Halo Customers as well.