

THIS WEEK



Surveying the AI health care landscape

Getting a firm grasp on the current and potential future applications and capabilities of artificial intelligence in health care can be difficult. One big reason: Enthusiasm for AI and hyperbole too often color coverage of the technology.

A new [AHA Center for Health Innovation Market Insights](#) report — “Surveying the AI Health Care Landscape” — takes a different approach. It assesses AI’s applications to solve some of the field’s most vexing challenges and common use cases for AI in four broad areas: administrative, financial, operational and clinical.

Compiled from research findings, surveys and insights provided by experts from provider organizations, AI system developers and technology consultants, the report also lists a sampling of vendors that sell, test and develop solutions in the four focus areas. Color-coding is used to denote whether AI solutions in these areas are available now (green), being beta-tested at hospitals or health systems (yellow) or are still in development (red).

[The AHA Center for Health Innovation’s resource page](#) provides access to this report and other tools to assist you with AI exploration and implementation.

CIVICA Rx DELIVERS FIRST GENERIC DRUG



In what is being hailed as a model for provider-led innovation, Civica Rx, the startup formed last year by a group of health systems to combat rising drug prices and shortages of drugs long on the market, recently made its first delivery of generic medications to a hospital.

Riverton Hospital, an Intermountain Healthcare facility in Utah, received the initial batch of vancomycin hydrochloride, an injectable antibiotic that is often in short supply at hospitals nationally, [Civica Rx reported](#). This is the first time a patient has been treated with one of the company's medications since it was founded in September 2018.

Vancomycin, supplied through a partnership with Xellia Pharmaceuticals, is expected to be available to its member hospitals by the end of the month. Deliveries of daptomycin, another essential antibiotic, will follow soon after. Another 15 Civica Rx medications now in production with partners like Hikma Pharmaceuticals and Exela Pharma Sciences will be delivered later this year, Civica Rx officials say.

The Civica Rx collaborative now includes three philanthropies and 40 health systems representing more than 1,000 hospitals in 46 states.

WALMART LOOKS TO ROLL BACK COSTS ON EMPLOYEE HEALTH

In an attempt to lower cost and improve quality, Walmart on Jan. 1 will launch a [“featured providers” pilot](#) to incentivize workers to choose higher-quality physicians. Workers who opt for the featured providers program will pay less out of pocket. If successful, the program will expand.



Walmart is working with Embold Health, a Nashville startup that uses data from public and private insurance programs to analyze whether doctors provide “appropriate, effective and cost-efficient care.” Once it has synthesized the data, Embold Health creates reports on individual physicians. Data for the Walmart pilot will focus on eight areas: primary care, cardiology, gastroenterology, endocrinology, obstetrics, oncology, orthopedics and pulmonology.

Walmart's long-planned program initially will be available to 60,000 Walmart employees in northwest Arkansas, Orlando/Tampa, Fla., and Dallas/Fort Worth. It is one of several new or expanded Walmart initiatives to improve quality of care and cut costs. In Colorado, Minnesota and Wisconsin, Walmart is expanding its voluntary telehealth offering to include preventive health, chronic care management, urgent care and behavioral health for workers.

Walmart also will be testing the Personal Healthcare Assistant, a concierge service to help workers find a high-quality provider, book appointments and get answers about billing,

understand a diagnosis and address other complex questions. The service also helps coordinate transportation and find child care during appointments.

We want to hear from you! Please send your feedback to Bob Kehoe at rkehoe@aha.org.

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