

Data Brief: Physician Perspectives on Access to Patient Data

OVERVIEW

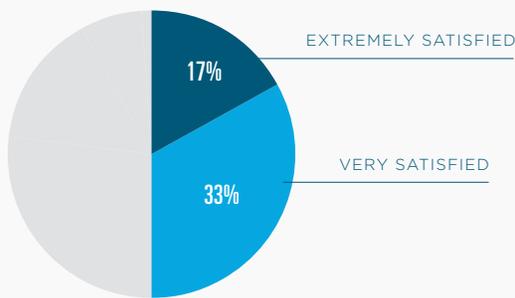
What types of actionable patient intelligence are most important to physicians today? In October 2017, Surescripts commissioned a survey of 300 U.S. physicians to gather insights on their access to and need for patient data. We wanted to understand where they get data, which sources they trust and what data they find most valuable.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Surescripts partnered with ORC International to administer a 15-minute web-based survey to 300 qualifying primary care physicians between October 5 and October 17, 2017. To qualify for the survey, physicians had to have been in practice for at least five years, spend at least 50% of their time providing direct patient care for at least 100 patients a year and use an electronic health record. Results were not statistically weighted.

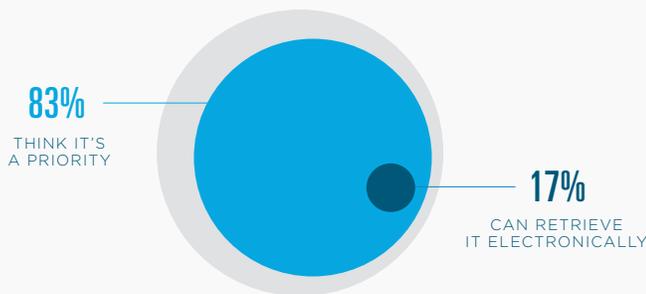
KEY FINDINGS

Half of Physicians Say Data Access Could Be Much Better



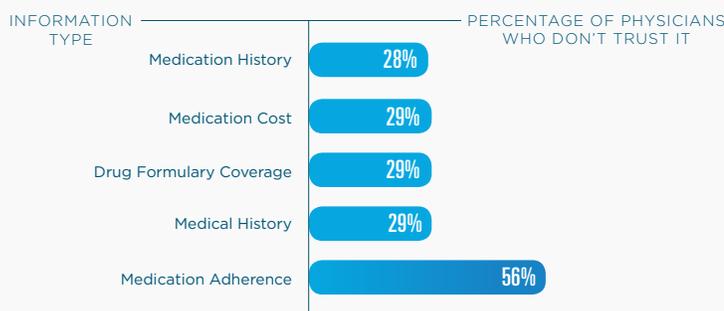
By design, our survey panel included only physicians who use electronic health records (EHRs) to manage patient data. But EHR usage alone is no guarantee of access to all the data doctors need to deliver informed and effective care. **Only 50 percent of physicians are very or extremely satisfied with their access to patient information.**

The Biggest Data Gap: Medication Adherence



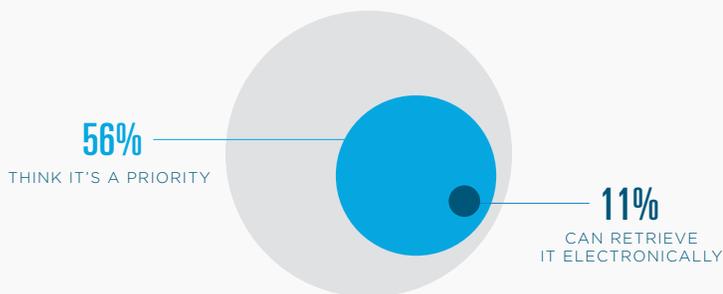
Eighty-three percent of physicians believe access to medication adherence information is a high priority, yet only 17 percent can easily retrieve that information electronically. That's the widest gap between information importance and information access our survey found.

THE LEAST TRUSTED TYPES OF MEDICATION INFORMATION



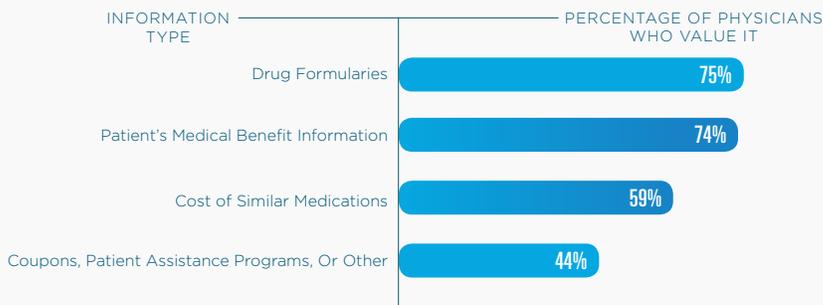
Without direct access to medication data from sources like pharmacy benefit managers and health plans, doctors struggle to form a complete picture of patient adherence. In fact, **56 percent of respondents say they don't trust what information they can access about medication adherence**—making it the least reliable information type in our survey. Half of those physicians say they distrust adherence data primarily because it's provided by patients, who can easily forget or misreport crucial information.

Price Transparency Aids Prescribing Decisions



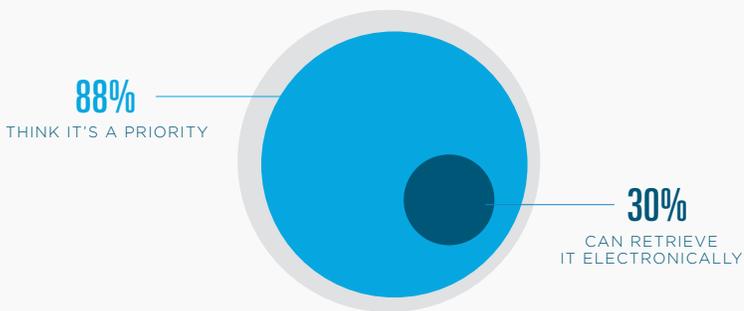
Also highly valued but rarely obtained is the out-of-pocket cost of medication. **Fifty-six percent of physicians say it's a high priority, but only 11 percent find it was easy to access electronically.**

THE MOST VALUED COST AND PAYER INFORMATION



Price transparency isn't just nice to have. Respondents believe it can and should impact prescribing decisions. **Seventy-four percent of physicians think it's important to consider a patient's medical benefit information before prescribing, and 59 percent want to be able to compare the cost of similar medications.**

Lack of Patient History Data Impedes Care Coordination



Finally, doctors want but often cannot electronically access information about other care their patients have recently received: **88 percent call this information a priority, while just 30 percent say they have easy access to it.**

Even the most basic details of care history can be hard to compile. **Only 33 percent of doctors say they can easily determine which other care providers a patient has seen, and only 30 percent report having a secure, electronic way to communicate with those providers.** Yet a majority say they value each of these building blocks of coordinated care.

Today's physicians want to improve care quality and reduce costs for their patients. To meet those aims, they're looking for easier access to data and stronger, faster connections to the other providers and organizations who share in their patients' care.

ABOUT SURESCRIPTS

Our purpose is to serve the nation with the single most trusted and capable health information network, built to increase patient safety, lower costs and ensure quality care. Since 2001, Surescripts has led the movement to turn data into actionable intelligence, and convened the Surescripts Network Alliance™ to enhance prescribing, inform care decisions and advance the healthcare industry.