Healthcare enterprises are increasingly integrating their core business functionalities with third parties & their platforms.

But rather than treat them like partnerships of old, forward-thinking healthcare leaders use these relationships to build their role in new digital ecosystems — unlocking their next waves of future growth. As they do, they’re designing future healthcare value chains that will transform their organisations, services, and even the market itself.

Healthcare is the sum of many parts. There are systems that pay for, coordinate and deliver care. There are also systems that help people self-manage a lifestyle goal or healthcare condition. Platforms provide the connected infrastructure that enables service providers and consumers to exchange value, but it’s not enough. Today, healthcare enterprises also need a rich and robust portfolio of digital partners to form their future business ecosystems.

These new ecosystems will extend beyond technology to connect the capabilities, expertise and services that touch healthcare organisations, consumers and clinicians. Healthcare organisations that take a leadership role in transformation realise that the strategic platform and ecosystem decisions they make today determine their future success — or lack of it.
Healthcare organisations have begun to realise that healthcare should be organised around the patient, not the enterprise.

Therefore, currently fragmented ecosystem participants should figure out how to work together to meet rising expectations. Historically, independent entities, such as hospitals and doctors, focused on the functions within their control. Now, ecosystem players realise that they are in many ways dependent on those who provide services before and after they do, independent of physical location.

Collaboration can improve loyalty and market share at a time when there is increasing pressure to drive down the cost of care. What’s more, ecosystem collaboration will maximise productivity across the continuum of care—from admission to post-acute care.

New opportunities for collaboration are giving rise to non-traditional partnerships. Major health systems are joining forces with consumer technology companies to receive “breaking news” alerts about patients. Providers are working with mobile app providers to create app stores of evidence-based applications. Telemedicine startups are working with major health systems to build platforms that help solve clinical and administrative challenges. Life sciences giants, pharmacy benefit managers and technology companies are collaborating to meet the needs of the under-insured.

Healthcare enterprises can integrate their core functionality with digital platforms through application programming interfaces (APIs), making it easier for all to plug into and play in the broader ecosystem, facilitating patient-centred care.

**PLATFORM**

Allows external service providers and consumers to exchange value with each other.

**PLATFORM BUSINESS**

Creates a plug and play infrastructure that enables service providers and consumers of value to connect and interact with each other in a connected ecosystem.

**ECOSYSTEM**

An external network of users and service providers – including suppliers, distributors, customers, competitors and government agencies – involved in the delivery of a specific product or service through both competition and cooperation.
BETTER TOGETHER

Fragmentation leads to poor outcomes. Therefore, ecosystem participants will increasingly work together to meet objectives and make progress. Today, governments and private sector companies are working together on major genome and biome initiatives to better understand, and ultimately treat, various diseases and conditions—from autoimmune disorders to obesity. Partnering can be a differentiator when collaborators work together to provide a service that addresses an unmet need.

By pooling resources and information, companies can deliver differentiated joint offerings. For instance, health plans are collaborating with providers to deliver virtual care services and integrated care delivery models to market. Health plans are also collaborating with consumer technology platforms to bring simple, convenient services to people on mobile platforms. Some are even going the extra mile, working with ride sharing services to provide patients with reliable transportation to and from their healthcare appointment.

90% of health executives believe it is critical to adopt a platform-based business model and engage in ecosystems with digital partners.

78% of health executives agree that competitive advantage will be determined by the strength of the partners and ecosystems you choose.

66% of health organisations are taking steps to participate in digital ecosystems.
**GIVING CARE A LIFT**

The CareMore Health System, the integrated health plan and delivery system, has partnered with Lyft to provide non-emergency medical transportation for Medicare Advantage and duals beneficiaries. Based on data published in JAMA, individuals using the service wait less than nine minutes to be taken to their medical appointment—that’s a 30 percent reduction in wait times. Costs have also dropped from about $31 per ride to $21.

By working together, CareMore and Lyft are addressing a major problem in healthcare: lack of access to consistent, affordable transportation. An estimated 3.6 million Americans miss or delay receiving nonemergency care each year due to transportation challenges. Individuals with the highest burden of chronic disease are often those with the greatest transportation barriers.

**INTEGRATED DISEASE MANAGEMENT**

Onduo is a platform that connects multiple stakeholders involved in diabetes management—clinicians, payers and healthcare professionals—to help develop comprehensive diabetes solutions that allow people with diabetes to lead full, healthy lives.

A joint venture of Sanofi and Verily, Onduo is positioned to deliver precision care management by leveraging the deep experience of Sanofi and rapid iterative testing and analytics of Verily.
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