In the ever-changing environment, the Information Technology in health care needs to integrate with other functions of the institution to create a solution that not only addresses the immediate concerns but also lay a strategic foundation. As can be seen from the articles in this special section, this function is not easy to integrate in a health care environment. The health care providers and payers have to depend on other disciplines to guide them.

In the opening article, Understanding Health Insurance Needs for Small Businesses in U.S., the authors explore the difference in the perception of the employers and employees using conjoint analysis and how a company is visualizing using the insights for determining the information technology strategy. By using conjoint analysis as a basis, the health insurance company plans to modify anticipate the needs of the market and determine its influence on the strategy including Information Technology.

In the next article, Integration of Just In Time (JIT) Inventory in Outpatient Pharmacy Information Systems, Dr. Kapoor and Mr. Mullen present a case study of Information Technology and its impact on the inventory management of a pharmacy. This interdisciplinary article ties Health Care Information Systems with Supply Chain Management. The case shows how Just-in-time (JIT) Inventory management is expected to enable a health care payer to eliminate waste, improve efficiency, and cut costs. JIT inventory management also helps the company to comply with the changing laws.

In India, the health care quality has become an important topic. By integrating Six Sigma, a manufacturing methodology, into Simplified Healthcare information systems and business processes, Simplified was able to transform itself into one of the leading health care provider in North India. The Six Sigma implementation...
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