

# Healthcare AI Works. So Why Isn't it Scaling?

April 2026 survey of 32 healthcare leaders finds adoption has stalled despite proof of value, with EHR integration and competing priorities cited as top barriers.

**The Gap:** Validation is happening. Scale is not.

**71%** of healthcare organizations seeing AI value are not expanding it at pace.

Among organizations that have realized measurable AI value, only a small minority say it is expanding quickly across departments. The majority describe adoption as growing slowly despite positive results.

**Why it Stalls:** Top Barriers to AI Adoption.

Share of respondents to selecting each barrier.

**44%**

EHR integration difficulty

**37%**

Lack of executive sponsorship or budget

**33%**

Competing organizational priorities

Clinician trust, ongoing cost, and regulatory concerns tied at 26%. Integration is the gating issue.

**What Unlocks It:** What would most accelerate adoption?

**48%**

A solution that fits inside the EHR

**36%**

Peer case studies with measurable outcomes

**28%**

Vendor that assumes performance risk

Peer evidence and Pay for Value signal one thing. Healthcare buyers want proof, not slideware.

**Who is Driving?: Clinical Leaders own AI Decisions.**

**41%**

Clinical  
leadership

**26%**

No clear owner

**19%**

Executive team

**15%**

IT department

One in four organizations has no defined owner for AI strategy.  
**Where ownership is clear, it sits with clinicians.**

**Supporting Finding | Domain Expertise**

**92% say deep healthcare  
domain expertise is critical  
in an AI vendor.**

The most lopsided result in the survey. Half of respondents gave it  
the maximum score of 6 out of 6.

**This is the case for Hybrid Intelligence: frontier AI paired with  
credentialed clinical abstractors, the model Carta Healthcare  
was built on.**

[www.carta.healthcare](http://www.carta.healthcare)

At Carta Healthcare, we believe high-quality data is the foundation for better healthcare outcomes. Traditional clinical data abstraction methods are labor-intensive, time-consuming, and costly. Our hybrid intelligence approach combines advanced AI with expert clinicians to deliver accurate, actionable data, reduce costs, and improve efficiency for hospitals and health systems nationwide. Recognized with awards such as the Merit Award, Pinnacle Award, and BIG Innovation Awards, Carta Healthcare is redefining the future of healthcare data management.



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