

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 accerlate 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.