THE **HEALTHCARE IT LEADER'S**

FIELD GUIDE TO
HIMSS26.

WRITTEN BY NORDIC.

Welcome.

Why this guide exists.

HIMSS26 offers insights, connections, and fresh perspective, but with packed agendas, a crowded exhibit hall, and constant demands on your time, it can be hard to focus on what matters most.

NORDIC created this guide to help you spend your time intentionally. It reflects what we're seeing across hospitals and health systems globally, highlighting sessions, topics, and conversations connected to today's most pressing IT challenges, such as workforce strategy, EHR optimization, data, security, and operational efficiency.

Designed to be practical and easy to use, this guide is here to support you before the conference, between sessions, and after you return home, helping you turn insight into action.

HIMSS26 at a glance.

DATE + LOCATION:
March 9 - 12 | Venetian Convention & Expo Center, Las Vegas
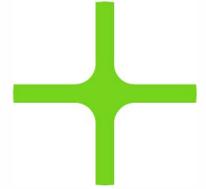
EXHIBIT HALL HOURS:
Tuesday, March 10 (10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.)
Wednesday, March 11 (9:45 a.m.–5:30 p.m.)
Thursday, March 12 (9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.)
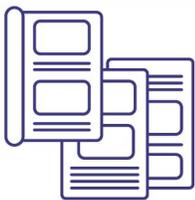
Priorities to keep on your radar.

Themes.

This year's conference unites leaders across healthcare to explore the forces shaping the future of care delivery. With a full agenda and competing priorities, it can be hard to know where to focus.

Based on what we're seeing across health systems worldwide, these are the themes to keep on your radar as you plan your time.

AI + MACHINE LEARNING

Artificial intelligence continues to influence clinical workflows, documentation efficiency, and operational decision making. Leaders are focusing on realistic adoption paths, governance structures, and the impact AI can have on patient outcomes and margins.
Sessions in this area can help clarify **what is achievable now versus what is still aspirational**.

Related insight

This article explains why richer clinical inputs, such as video, are essential for building AI that supports real clinical decisions and trustworthy outcomes.

Read: If you want AI to think like a clinician, show it what clinicians see

BUSINESS + FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

With health systems balancing financial pressure and operational demands, many conversations this year center on margin recovery, cost optimization, and investments that deliver measurable returns. Content in this theme explores the strategic alignment of technology decisions with system-wide financial goals.
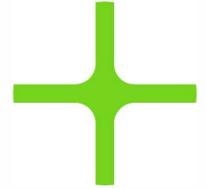
Related insight

This perspective reframes IT from a cost center to an enterprise asset by outlining ways leaders can drive margin, efficiency, and measurable returns.

Read: Unlocking the value of IT in healthcare

Priorities to keep on your radar.

Themes.

CYBERSECURITY

Rising cyber threats and evolving regulations continue to be top concerns for CIOs, CISOs, and clinical leaders. Expect sessions focused on resilience, incident response, zero trust strategies, and protecting clinical operations across hybrid environments. This is a critical area for leaders looking to strengthen system-wide readiness.
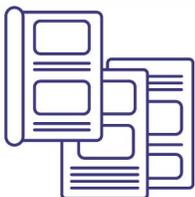
Related insight

This piece makes a clear case for identity-first security as the frontline control in today's healthcare environments, moving beyond device-centric approaches to strengthen resilience.

Read: How identity-first security strengthens healthcare cyber defense

DIGITAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

Sessions in this track highlight opportunities to modernize digital infrastructure, elevate patient and clinician experience, and scale virtual or connected care models. These discussions will bridge strategy and execution, helping leaders move from pilots to sustainable transformation.
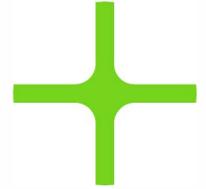
Related insight

This article shows why durable transformation starts with strong clinical governance and clinician engagement, tying strategy to outcomes and value realization.

Read: Why strong clinical governance is essential for successful digital health transformation

Priorities to keep on your radar.

Themes.

INTEROPERABILITY

Reliable, real-time data exchange is foundational to almost every strategic initiative. This theme includes updates on standards, integration pathways, cross system collaboration, and viable steps toward creating a unified, accessible data environment.

Related insight

This article explains why data quality, governance, and strong integration foundations are essential for both effective interoperability and enterprise-wide AI success, highlighting how the same building blocks underpin every major digital initiative.

Read: AI readiness isn't a new challenge — it's a familiar one

WORKFORCE

Staffing pressures, evolving team structures, and new technology-enabled roles continue to shape healthcare IT operations. Sessions here will address skill development, change management, and approaches to supporting clinical and IT teams through modernization and growth.

Related insight

This article outlines human-centered ways to use automation as a true teammate, reducing burnout and improving team performance across clinical and IT workflows..

Read: Can AI be a teammate? Human-centered strategies for health IT leaders.

Can't miss

Sessions.

With so many strong sessions on this year's agenda, choosing where to spend your limited time is no small task. This is a curated set of discussions we think will be particularly useful for healthcare IT leaders navigating rapid change, new technologies, and evolving workforce demands.

NOTE: TIMES AND LOCATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE; CHECK THE OFFICIAL CONFERENCE WEBSITE/APP FOR THE LATEST UPDATES.

Workforce and staffing strategy

Session title: Workforce 2030: Research on the Transformation of Health Information

Thursday, March 12 — 8:45 - 9:45 a.m. | Level 3 - San Polo 3504

Speakers: Debbie Hamada (Loma Linda University), Angela Kennedy (The Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education), David Marc (The College of St. Scholastica), and Susan Fenton (UTHealth Houston McWilliams School of Biomedical Informatics)

Why it matters: AI, reimbursement shifts, and new privacy expectations are reshaping health information management (HIM) roles and skill needs faster than most teams can adapt.

What to listen for:
- How automation and gen AI are changing coding and analytics work
- The skills HIM professionals will need by 2030
- Whether micro credentials or apprenticeships can close gaps
- Curricular shifts that yield job-ready graduates
- Implications for hiring and role design

Technology modernization and digital infrastructure

Session title: Innovation That Matters: Scaling Healthcare Technology with Purpose

Monday, March 9 — 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Level 3 - Murano 3201B

Speakers: Murat Uralkan (Houston Methodist), Alexander Richter (SciTech Scity), Simon Nazarian (City of Hope)

Why it matters: Thoughtful, human-centered technology integration is becoming essential as health systems look for ways to deploy smarter tools that help improve experiences for patients, clinicians, staff, and caregivers.

What to listen for:
- How leading organizations evaluate and scale next generation solutions
- Ways human-centered design strengthens care delivery and team connections
- Practical examples of integrating advanced tools into real workflows
- Approaches that improve experience across the entire care ecosystem

Data, analytics, and AI

Session title: Artificial Intelligence in Action: Clinical Process Maps Get Modern

Tuesday, March 10 — 11 - 11:30 a.m. | Level 5 - Palazzo D

Speakers: Stephen Bognar (Intermountain Health) and Logan Masta (Arcadia)

Why it matters: AI driven automation is making it possible to create and scale clinical process maps (CPMs) faster and more consistently, directly impacting care quality, cost, and readiness for value-based models.

What to listen for:
- How AI automates CPM creation and updates
- Real examples of integrating CPMs into provider workflows
- The impact on care standardization, quality, and medical expense savings
- A replicable model for scaling decision support across large systems

Cybersecurity and resilience

Session title: AI vs. AI: How Healthcare is Fighting Fire with Fire in Cybersecurity

Monday, March 9 — 1:55 - 2:40 p.m.| Level 3 | San Polo 3501A

Speakers: Robert Maclay (Stanford Children's Health), Ryan Kalember (Proofpoint), Dennis Chornenky (Valid AI), and Kristen Ray (Universal Health Services, Inc.)

Why it matters: AI-driven cyberattacks are advancing faster than traditional defenses, putting connected devices, patient data, and clinical workflows at risk. Health systems need feasible ways to use AI to counter these threats and strengthen security without disrupting care.

What to listen for:
- Real-world examples of sophisticated, AI-enabled attacks
- How health systems are using AI for real-time detection and automated response
- Ways to secure AI-enabled clinical tools and protect sensitive data
- Clear steps for implementing AI-driven defense models

Financial pressure and operational efficiency

Session title: From Silos to Sustainability: Driving Financial Transformation Through System-Wide Integration

Wednesday, March 11 — 3:15 - 4:15 p.m. | Level 3 | San Polo 3504

Speakers: Michael Allen (Hackensack Meridian Health), Elham Yousef (Hackensack Meridian Health)

Why it matters: Many health systems are under financial pressure, and this model shows how clinical standardization, real-time analytics, and governance can work together to reduce variation, improve outcomes, and deliver meaningful, sustained cost savings.

What to listen for:
- How a system-wide integration and sustainability model was built and scaled
- The role of governance, analytics, and workflow embedded tools
- Realistic steps for aligning clinical, operational, and financial leaders
- A roadmap for implementing similar models across your own organization

Booths worth visiting.

The exhibit hall is packed, and your time is limited. These booths represent organizations leading some of the most important priorities for healthcare IT in 2026, from cloud infrastructure and cybersecurity to workforce systems, data platforms, and digital operations. If you only have a few minutes on the floor, these are smart, high value stops to consider.

CLEAR®

BOOTH 433

Why stop by:
Learn how high-assurance identity, biometrics, and verification workflows strengthen security, streamline access, and reduce friction across patient and workforce interactions.

Good conversation starters:
- "How can identity modernization reduce risk without slowing clinical workflows?"
- "What does a healthcare-specific identity strategy look like in practice?"

Booths worth visiting.

infor · **BOOTH 3631**

Why stop by:
Explore modern enterprise resource planning and workforce tools that streamline operations, strengthen staffing models, and support system-wide financial performance.

Good conversation starters:
- "How are healthcare organizations improving labor forecasting with your tools?"
- "What does modernization look like for systems with legacy platforms?"

workday. · **BOOTH 4208**

Why stop by:
Understand how unified HR, finance, and supply chain platforms can reduce administrative overhead and support more agile, predictable operations.

Good conversation starters:
- "How are health systems using Workday to strengthen workforce planning?"
- "Where are organizations seeing measurable efficiency gains?"

aws · **BOOTH 1823**

Why stop by:
Identify how cloud-native services accelerate analytics, archive clinical data, support AI workloads, and power scalable digital experiences.

Good conversation starters:
- "What does an achievable cloud migration roadmap look like?"
- "Where are organizations realizing operational or financial ROI?"

Clearsense

Why stop by:

See how health systems are unifying data, improving data readiness, and enabling AI by connecting clinical, operational, and financial data sources.

Good conversation starters:

- "How do you help healthcare organizations get data ready for AI initiatives?"
- "What's working for systems trying to simplify analytics across silos?"

Fortified
HEALTH SECURITY

Why stop by:

Get clarity on the cybersecurity threat landscape and actionable ways resource-constrained organizations can strengthen identity, device, and network defense.

Good conversation starters:

- "Which cyber threats are emerging fastest across healthcare?"
- "How are hospitals operationalizing AI-assisted detection and response?"

salesforce

Why stop by:

Discover how health systems are using unified customer relationship management tools, automation, and real-time data to strengthen patient engagement, streamline workflows, and create more connected care experiences.

Good conversation starters:

- "Where are organizations seeing early wins with Salesforce in patient engagement or workflow automation?"
- "What does integration with our EHR and core systems realistically look like?"

KLAS RESEARCH

Why stop by:

Access unbiased insights on vendor performance, market trends, and what peer organizations are experiencing with the solutions you're evaluating.

Good conversation starters:

- "What themes are you hearing from leading health systems this year?"
- "Where do top performers align on digital strategy and investments?"

Microsoft

Why stop by:

Explore cloud capabilities, enterprise AI tools, and security advancements that support clinical teams, operations, and digital modernization.

Good conversation starters:

- "What early wins are health systems seeing from generative AI pilots?"
- "How can we balance innovation with governance and risk management?"

Find + Nordic.

BOOTH 631

Get useful, vendor neutral perspectives on AI readiness, workforce strategy, data quality, interoperability, cybersecurity, operational efficiency, and more. **Stop by for a complimentary coffee and chat with our healthcare-focused consultants about your 2026 priorities.** ServiceNow will also be in the booth offering live demos of their platform, which connects AI, data, workflows, and security.

Events + Networking.

The week moves quickly, and some of the most valuable conversations happen outside the session rooms. These selections highlight opportunities to meet peers, hear fresh outlooks, and make the most of your time without overwhelming your schedule.

Pre-conference forums.

If you're arriving early, these forums offer deeper dives into some of the most important themes advancing healthcare IT in 2026.

AI in Healthcare Forum

Monday, March 9, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Level 5 | Palazzo E

A candid look at AI beyond the hype; this forum focuses on building literacy, confidence, and real-world frameworks for embedding AI into clinical practice. Through case studies and strategies, you'll learn how health systems are aligning executive ROI goals with frontline needs to deliver measurable impact, improved care experiences, and sustainable value.

Healthcare Cybersecurity Forum

Monday, March 9, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Level 3 | San Polo 3501A

Explore how healthcare organizations are building the workforce, technology, and leadership structures needed to stay ahead of fast evolving cyber threats. This forum highlights collaborative industry efforts, including the Health Industry Cybersecurity Strategic Plan, to equip CISOs and security teams with helpful strategies for strengthening protection, enabling patient care, and driving the future of healthcare cybersecurity.

Interoperability and HIE Forum

Monday, March 9, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Level 5 | Palazzo L

Explore how open standards and seamless data exchange can transform fragmented care into a connected, patient-centered ecosystem. This forum brings leading experts together to examine the technology, policy, and clinical practices needed to enable secure, meaningful data flow across all points of care.

Top picks for
HIMSS26.

High-impact events with broad relevance for healthcare IT executives.

HIMSS opening reception

Monday, March 9 — 5 - 7 p.m., Caesars | Forum Event Plaza

Kick off the week at Caesars Forum with a Formula 1–themed reception featuring light entertainment, food, drinks, and easy networking under the stars. Dress warmly, this event is outdoors.

Cybersecurity command center

Tuesday, March 10, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m., Level 1 | The Park (Hall G) | Booth 10001

Get a clear view of today's threat landscape with focused insights, live demos, and sensible strategies for protecting patient privacy and securing healthcare data. This is a smart stop for leaders looking to strengthen defenses and stay ahead of evolving cyber risks.

Women in Health IT networking reception

Wednesday, March 11, 6 - 7:30 p.m., Venetian | Juliet Cocktail Room

Reserve your spot for this high-energy gathering of women leaders and innovators across digital health. This popular event requires advance registration and an additional fee, with tickets expected to sell out. Registration includes two craft cocktails and light appetizers; no onsite signups are available.

Interop+Smart Experience

Tuesday, March 10, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m., Level 1 | The Park (Hall G) | Booth 12511

See interoperability come to life through live, scenario-based demonstrations that follow patient journeys across care settings. Explore next-generation environments and talk directly with solution architects to learn how they're overcoming integration barriers, security challenges, and system incompatibilities to build a more connected, trusted healthcare ecosystem.

Artificial Intelligence Pavilion

Tuesday, March 10, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m., Level 1 | The Park (Hall G) | Booth 10018

Investigate cutting-edge AI tools and applications designed to improve detection, diagnosis, and patient experience. This central hub enables clinicians, decision makers, and technology leaders to see use cases in action and hear directly from experts.

Also worth checking out.

Great options depending on your interests, focus areas, and available time.

Cybersecurity meet-up

Thursday, March 12, 12:15 - 1 p.m., Level 1, Marco Polo 702

Connect with peers who understand the unique security challenges facing healthcare systems. These focused discussions offer a chance to dive into cybersecurity governance, awareness training, and effective incident response in a candid, collaborative setting.

Clinicians meet-up

Wednesday, March 11, 12:15 - 1 p.m., Venetian, Level 1 | Marco Polo 702

Connect with peers who understand the realities of delivering care today. This intimate gathering brings together physicians, nurses, and behavioral health professionals for meaningful conversations on patient-centered technology, AI in clinical practice, health disparities, social determinants, the future of health IT, and evolving vendor partnerships.

The Patient Experience & Wellness Pavilion

Tuesday, March 10, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Level 2 | Hall B | Booth 3264

Explore innovative telehealth platforms and remote monitoring tools designed to enhance patient experience and support continuous engagement. This pavilion highlights technologies that blend convenience, personalization, and empowerment, showcasing how patient-centered solutions can improve care delivery and outcomes.

HIMSS Blood Drive

Tuesday, March 10, to Wednesday, March 11, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.,
Level 1 | The Park (Hall G) Booth 11929

Whether you're donating for the first time, or it's been a while, your contribution can make a world of difference to patients in need.

Puppy Park

Tuesday, March 10, and Wednesday, March 11, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Thursday, March 12, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Level 2 | Hall B | Booth 3064

Take a restorative break and spend time with adoptable puppies.

HIMSS chapter events.

Regional gatherings that offer a welcoming way to connect with peers in your local health IT community.

Mid-Atlantic

Monday, March 9, 8 - 10 p.m., The Yard House

Delaware Valley, Keystone, New Jersey, and New York State

Tuesday, March 10, Noon - 2 p.m.,
The Palazzo at The Venetian Resort

California

Tuesday, March 10, 7 - 9:30 p.m., Ole Red Las Vegas

Colorado

Tuesday, March 10, 5:30 – 8 p.m., Grand Lux Café

Florida Central North/South and Puerto Rico

Tuesday, March 10, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.,
The Palazzo at The Venetian Resort

Georgia

Tuesday, March 10, 4 - 6 p.m., Booth 4547

Wisconsin, Northern Virginia, and Arizona

Wednesday, March 11, 4 - 5:30 p.m.,
Nordic Booth #631

Nordic events.

If these align with your schedule, we'd love to see you there.

Under the Nordic Star

CLIENT RECEPTION + BRAND LAUNCH PARTY

Tuesday, March 10, 6 - 9 p.m., La Cave Bar + Restaurant, Wynn Las Vegas

Unwind and connect at this relaxed evening reception, hosted in collaboration with our sponsors. Enjoy a premium hosted bar, chef curated appetizers, a full dinner, and a comfortable setting designed for easy conversation. This year's gathering also celebrates the launch of Nordic's new brand, a moment we're excited to share with the people who make our work meaningful.

RSVP HERE

The Nordic Exchange:
FQHC Happy Hour with Workday

Tuesday, March 10, 5 - 6 p.m., B Bar at Wynn Las Vegas

This informal gathering brings leaders from Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) together to connect with peers and share ideas on how modern enterprise resource planning strategies can help with navigating the operational, workforce, and financial challenges of today and tomorrow.

RSVP HERE

Buzzed After Dark

Monday, March 9, 9-11 p.m., Venetian, Juliet Lounge – Library

Nordic is a proud sponsor of this event.
Hosted by The Buzz Podcast, this event brings together innovators, executives, and strategic partners for a relaxed, high-energy evening following the HIMSS opening reception.

RSVP HERE

Questions worth asking.

These questions can help you quickly assess whether a vendor's solution can meet your organization's clinical, operational, and financial needs.

Reducing clinician burden

?
- How does your solution reduce documentation, administrative work, or cognitive load for clinicians, and how do you measure that reduction?
- What workflow changes will our clinicians actually experience on day 1, day 30, and day 180?

Improving data quality and AI readiness

?
- Does our data need to be clean, structured, or governed before we can see value, and what happens if our data isn't there yet?
- How does your tool handle inconsistent data across systems, and what safeguards ensure outputs are reliable?

Strengthening security and managing risk

?
- How do you secure your AI models, integrations, or automations, so we're not introducing new attack surfaces or identity risks?
- What visibility and control will our security, risk, and compliance teams have into how your system uses and moves data?

Supporting workforce capacity

?
- Which roles in our organization will this solution meaningfully support or replace, and what training or reskilling assumptions do you make?
- What resources or staffing are required on our side to keep your system running effectively beyond go-live?

Ensuring operational and financial value

?
- What measurable outcomes have similar-sized health systems achieved, and over what timeline?
- What are the total hidden costs, such as interfaces, modules, staffing, storage, computing power, and ongoing optimization, that aren't in the base price?

Driving real adoption (not just deployment)

?
- What does a realistic adoption curve look like for this solution, and what support do you provide to help teams get there?
- How do you ensure that this technology sticks in clinical or operational workflows rather than becoming another unused tool?

Build your own conference plan.

Use this page to capture the sessions, booths, and conversations you don't want to miss. Keep it simple; three focused priorities each day can make all the difference.

Top priorities for the week.

1. Key sessions to attend:

   _____

   _____

   _____

2. Booths to visit:

   _____

   _____

   _____

3. People to connect with:

   _____

   _____

   _____

Daily snapshot.

MORNING	AFTERNOON

Day one.

NOTES

Build your own conference plan.

Day two.

MORNING	AFTERNOON

NOTES

Day three.

MORNING	AFTERNOON

NOTES

Ideas to bring back to my team

_____

_____

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Follow-ups after the conference

_____

_____

_____

_____

After the conference:

Turning insights into action.

The best conference takeaways are the ones that translate into momentum back home. Use the space below to reflect on what you heard, what resonated, and where small steps could make a meaningful difference for your teams.

Debrief with your team

Bring your notes, share a few key insights, and ask your team:
- "What problem does this help us solve right now?"
- "What resonates with our priorities? What doesn't?"
- "Where can we try something on a limited scale to learn what works?"

Identify one or two quick wins

Look for ideas that are achievable without major spending or structural changes. Small improvements to workflow, governance, or communication often create the biggest early momentum.

Align insights to your priorities

- Map what you learned to your broader strategy. Which sessions reinforced your direction?
- Which sessions surfaced gaps in data, staffing, or readiness that you may need to address?

Clarify next steps and owners

If something is worth pursuing, decide who should explore it, what questions they need to answer, and when you'll regroup to review findings.

Follow up with people you met

A short message, such as: "I appreciated our conversation; would love to continue it," can lead to meaningful peer connections long after the conference ends.

NORDIC®

A single point of light can illuminate an entire world. Nordic's singular focus on healthcare gives you endless ways to better navigate yours. With a clarity that comes only from proven experience, we understand the full healthcare landscape and can see the wisest path forward through even the most complex challenges.

We find answers where others don't know to look. By bridging care gaps, supporting clinicians, streamlining operations, and tailoring solutions to your organization's unique nuances, we help bring your healthcare into the future. End to end, we're solving for today and tomorrow. Let us solve your challenges so you can focus on caring for your people and patients.

Let us help you care brilliantly.

CONTACT US