During the Ontario Hospital Association conference in November 2000, the second annual Healthcare Issues Survey was undertaken. The survey is a joint venture of the Ontario Hospital Association, Agilent Technologies and Hospital Quarterly. Four hundred and fourteen (414) conference delegates participated. A significant number and up from three hundred and twenty eight (328) last year.

We can, presumably use the first survey as a benchmark so a few comparisons are noted.

**The respondents**
As expected, hospital representatives (71% of respondents) dominate the list of survey participants at the OHA annual convention; up from 64% a year earlier. Other groups (government, long-term care, regions, group practices and community providers were about equally represented.) Operating budgets of less than $50 million dominated participation – 46% of respondents; unchanged from the previous year.

**Survey says . . . . . .**
Factors affecting managing healthcare are lead by 1) the need to communicate with other providers and 2) access to innovations and evidence-based practices. These displace "pressure on costs" as the leading factors.

According to respondents "new diagnostic techniques" have the greatest impact on healthcare organizations. This was selected from a predetermined short list of suggested medical advances. This remains unchanged from last year.
Demographics

Organization

Position

Operating Budget

“GroupWare” is now considered to have the leading impact potential from a suggested list of IT applications. It trades places with “intranets/extranets” which are now ranked second. “Data mining tools” retain third position.

“Continuing education” programs again are the favoured method of learning about new technology and the “internet” is second. This too mirrors last year.

Seventeen Authors discuss: Home Care: It’s Time for a Canadian Model
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