

1 tips for
choosing
A REGISTRY SOLUTION

Eight ways to make sure you choose the right partner for you.

It's not just about collecting data, it's about sharing information and putting your data to work to improve the healthcare being provided.

A software solution can greatly impact not only your trauma center, but your daily life, and it's important to choose a complete solution that can help you become more efficient and collect more quality data. What criteria do you use to choose a solution though? Look for the following qualities when evaluating software vendors.

ONE

Flexibility to collect only the data you need

Some solutions require users to collect data for all fields provided, regardless of what your individual department requires. This increases the amount of time spent on unnecessary data collection - time that could be much better spent. Look for a solution that gives you the flexibility to choose what data you want collected, what fields should be mandatory and allows you to add questions or criteria specific to your department. Removing data fields that aren't necessary can help streamline workflows and help registrars be more efficient.

TWO

Ease of data entry and validation

Choosing a solution that allows for quick and easy data entry helps garner buy-in, and is easier to implement and train providers on its use. You want the department focus to remain on patient care versus entering data into a cumbersome data collection system. Looking for a system with intelligent search features, and the ability to enter ICD-10 and AIS codes helps ease the traditional headache of data entry. Some solutions even suggest values for reporting and submission of TQIP process measure factors, making it easier to remain compliant. Likewise, a solution that provides automatic data validation reduces the challenge of implementing or maintaining manual processes to monitor data for completeness and accuracy. The need to re-abstract patient records is also reduced, if not eliminated.

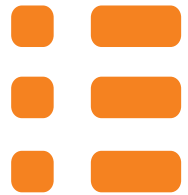
Ability to monitor performance benchmarks & KPIs

Simply collecting data does not provide value unless paired with a strong reporting tool. A solution with a powerful reporting tool built-in can give you the flexibility to quickly and easily create reports that allow you to monitor key performance indicators or reveal trends in your community.

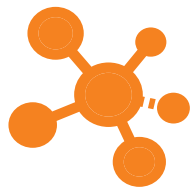


THREE

Ability to monitor performance benchmarks & KPIs CONTINUED



Canned reports. This is the most streamlined version of reporting available. Canned reports allow you to choose the type of report and timeframe you need, and automatically creates it. The data elements are predetermined, removing the guesswork and uncertainty. However, you should still have the ability to modify the standard report to meet ever-changing needs.



Customization. Make the reports look the way you need them to. Maintain brand and agency identity. Without this option, you may end up with unimpressive reports or ones with the vendor's brand identity.



Exports. There are numerous reasons for why you may need to export reports, so you want to ensure that you can export in a format most useful to you. Common formats include PDF, CSV, Doc, HTML, XML, JPEG, PNG, SVG or mapping.



Scheduling. You might need the ability to schedule reports on a recurring basis, whether it is daily, weekly, monthly or more. Automatically scheduling reports saves time creating the report each time and remembering to whom it should be delivered.

Ability to monitor performance benchmarks & KPIs CONTINUED



Ad hoc. There may be times when a canned report does not offer the information you are looking for, which is when the ability to create ad hoc reports is needed. Ad hoc reporting allows you to choose what data to include and how to display it, which gives you complete control over the process. Discover the information you need in a way most meaningful to you.



Analytics. Viewing data in a tabular format may not always be conducive to the way you work or digest information. Ensure the vendor you work with offers an analytics engine that helps you develop visually appealing charts and graphs.



Data Monitoring. There is value in being able to actively monitor your data versus discovering trends retroactively. Timely information helps you make more informed decisions faster, allowing for action to be taken immediately.

FOUR

Compliance with national databases

When compliance is mandatory, you need to ensure you don't have a lapse in compliant data collection. Work with a vendor that understands this and automatically updates your application prior to the start of each new calendar year to be compliant with standards published by the American College of Surgeons, National Trauma Data Bank (NTDB).

FIVE

A single solution for all of your data

A system that allows the trauma center, and other departments as well, to collect and maintain data is more beneficial to a hospital system and can be easier to gain funding approval. Housing all trauma, stroke, cardiac and burn data, in addition to integrations, reduces the need to maintain multiple systems and helps your department get to the next level.



SIX

Capability to automatically integrate with additional data sources

Even with the ability to house all data in a single solution, you will no doubt find that access to additional data is needed to ensure fully complete patient records. Combat this issue by collaborating with EMS agencies and integrating with the hospital EMR. Look for a system that allows you to implement multiple integrations – both within the hospital system and outside. You will find systems that promote data exchange via import and export only, and some that automate the full process. Choosing a solution that automates the exchange process relieves the stress of knowing when to administer imports and exports, and how to do so correctly. Integrations such as this can also prepopulate data required for NTDB submission, ultimately reducing or eliminating redundant data entry.

Choose a vendor that supports you

Support is perhaps one of the most defining factors of the vendor you work with. Think about when you have needed support in the past or when you may need it most – does the vendor offer help at those times? Work with a vendor that invests in its support team and employees, and understands that what you do matters, and is there to help when you need it most. Contacting the company's references is a great way to get an insider's view into what the company offers.

Outside of general help with the system, does the vendor offer continuing learning opportunities? Do they provide a technical documentation platform? Webinars? Conferences? What formats is the information available in? Each person learns differently and at a different pace, so having the information available via technical documents, FAQs, videos, webinars and in-person trainings is essential.

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Know the company

Look closely at the software company. You are buying more than just software, so you want to know they have good references, are easy to work with, stay compliant with standards and can support you in the long term. Evaluate what is important to you, and select a vendor that matches your goals.

- ✓ Full compliance with national standards
- ✓ 24/7 support access
- ✓ Development-driven
- ✓ Customer-focused
- ✓ Continually enhancing technology
- ✓ Constant learning and training opportunities
- ✓ Full development, implementation, support and sales staff in-house

Choosing a solution that fits your trauma center's needs is critical to ensuring success in staying compliant, and using the registry as a management tool to focus on patient care, education and trauma center operations. Research all available options and select the one that gives you the flexibility and control you need to manage the trauma center.



ABOUT IMAGETREND

ImageTrend, Inc. is dedicated to connecting life's most important data in the healthcare and emergency response community. ImageTrend delivers software solutions, data analytics and services for EMS, Fire, hospitals, community paramedicine (CP), critical care, and preparedness to enable fully integrated patient-centric healthcare and public safety. ImageTrend's commitment to innovation, its clients, and providing world-class implementation and support is unsurpassed. Based in Lakeville, Minnesota, ImageTrend combines business analysis, creative design and data driven architecture to offer scalable solutions and strategies for today and the future.