Medtronic’s history is deeply rooted in the medical device industry, but ultimately, it’s our identity as a technology leader that will help us achieve our mission of alleviating pain, restoring health, and extending life for people around the world.

But in an era when people can track everything from steps taken and calories consumed to up-to-the-minute breaking news, a disconnected and inefficient healthcare system makes it so much harder to achieve success in improving health. The simplicity we see in our everyday gadgets is often missing in the patient’s journey, the hospital setting, and everywhere in between. Systems are out-of-date, and what’s more, these inefficiencies force our healthcare practitioners to take time away from delivering care — costing providers time and money.

These challenges erode the ability to provide value and improve lives. At Medtronic, we believe that to truly enhance care, we must help lead the industry toward the future — a value-based system driven by data and analytics to improve clinical and economic outcomes.

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Data and analytics provide valuable insights for patients, providers, and payers alike, and thrust the healthcare system towards integration. Providers can reduce the variance of in-hospital care by directly measuring clinical outcomes in relation to their actions. By compiling data and using analytics to create patient risk profiles, we can help providers focus treatment to the patients who need it the most. This leads to better clinical outcomes for patients and more efficient use of healthcare resources.

Medtronic is working hard to push this integration by driving meaningful innovations that harness the power of data to improve overall care and efficiency. By using implantable remote monitoring systems that send real-time patient data directly to providers, we ensure quicker and more accurate patient diagnosis and treatment. Patients are empowered to practice safer self-care in the comfort of their own homes through programs that provide physicians the data needed to intervene if risky behaviors emerge after care moves beyond hospital walls.

We’re also joining forces with other organizations to drive innovative progress using data. Our consulting services focus on helping hundreds of catheterization labs and operating rooms to use data and analytics to streamline operations and reduce patient wait times. By partnering with IBM Watson, we created the first and only device in diabetes care that continuously collects live data and automatically provides personalized sugar level adjustments — preventing costly and inconvenient hospital stays.

Of course, challenges remain to integrate data and analytics with how providers work and make sure it is accurate and truly actionable. But we will be at the forefront of efforts to work together to harness data in the right way to improve patient health.

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Looking forward, we know that continuing to develop partnerships across all aspects of technology and healthcare will be crucial to successfully building a value-based environment. With progress comes new challenges, such as maintaining patient privacy in a data-driven healthcare world and using data to predict — rather than just diagnose and treat — patient diseases. We will continue to use our expertise to move beyond these new hurdles. But we also know we cannot do it alone. We must push this new frontier in healthcare further, together.

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