Electronic health record systems are a boon and a security risk. Today’s electronic health systems have advanced monitoring capabilities that allow doctors to monitor patients’ medical conditions remotely. At the same time, though, these systems can fail, and data can be stolen by cybercriminals. In recent years, the rise of these systems has made it impossible to prevent all conceivable outcomes, therefore, failure of any kind is unavoidable. Moreover, while the benefits of these systems and ensuring its security are undisputed, it is debatable whether any of the data we can, do, and use today and some solutions that should be implemented. The reason for this is that these systems are not welltrained by our patients with their physical health, but their personal health. In order to treat both with the same level of respect and importance.

Nils van Tuylerden, MD is chief medical information officer for Nuance Communications.

Access to information critical despite trade offs
By Nick van Terven
Guest columnist

A recent study published in Forbes shows that 80 percent of patients are concerned about the safety of their health information. And that is good. The catch is that the information contained in electronic health records (EHRs) has been stored on a single platform for over 20 years. This creates an online database of personal information that is accessible to anyone who has access to the system. However, this is not necessarily a bad thing. Electronic health records (EHRs) are a boon and a security risk. Today’s electronic health systems have advanced monitoring capabilities that allow doctors to monitor patients’ medical conditions remotely. At the same time, though, these systems can fail, and data can be stolen by cybercriminals. In recent years, the rise of these systems has made it impossible to prevent all conceivable outcomes, therefore, failure of any kind is unavoidable. Moreover, while the benefits of these systems and ensuring its security are undisputed, it is debatable whether any of the data we can, do, and use today and some solutions that should be implemented. The reason for this is that these systems are not welltrained by our patients with their physical health, but their personal health. In order to treat both with the same level of respect and importance.

Nils van Tuylerden, MD is chief medical information officer for Nuance Communications.

Access to information critical despite trade offs
By Nick van Terven
Guest columnist

A recent study published in Forbes shows that 80 percent of patients are concerned about the safety of their health information. And that is good. The catch is that the information contained in electronic health records (EHRs) has been stored on a single platform for over 20 years. This creates an online database of personal information that is accessible to anyone who has access to the system. However, this is not necessarily a bad thing. Electronic health records (EHRs) are a boon and a security risk. Today’s electronic health systems have advanced monitoring capabilities that allow doctors to monitor patients’ medical conditions remotely. At the same time, though, these systems can fail, and data can be stolen by cybercriminals. In recent years, the rise of these systems has made it impossible to prevent all conceivable outcomes, therefore, failure of any kind is unavoidable. Moreover, while the benefits of these systems and ensuring its security are undisputed, it is debatable whether any of the data we can, do, and use today and some solutions that should be implemented. The reason for this is that these systems are not welltrained by our patients with their physical health, but their personal health. In order to treat both with the same level of respect and importance.

Nils van Tuylerden, MD is chief medical information officer for Nuance Communications.