

Medical Software - Time to Change?

Article by [CTS Software Selection](#)

The question, "Does it pay for me change or replace my system?" is asked every day by medical practices. This is a hard question to answer given the number of variables involved. You have to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of both to see if it is worth a change.

Newer versus older technology is not the only thing to consider when evaluating alternatives. You must look at the needs of the practice, your budget and future goals, and then weigh them against what you already have and what other vendors offer.

You must evaluate the costs associated with the systems: How much does it cost to maintain the system? Do I need to upgrade my server or PC's when dealing with the future upgrades? How much does a new software system and new hardware cost? What are the maintenance and support charges going to be? How easily can I convert my data into a new system? How much training is needed to ramp up the staff?

The following are some topics to consider when evaluating the option of making a change:

- Is your existing vendor still in business or were they sold to a new vendor? Others are purchasing companies and some are simply going out of business. A majority of the time, the product that was purchased is shelved within a year or two and limited or no enhancements are made to the product.
- Are you getting adequate support from the existing vendor or are they poor and non-responsive?
- Are the costs involved in maintaining the existing system including hardware, upgrades, support changes and staff training very expensive?

Publications related to this topic on website www.practicesupport.com include:

[Evaluating Computer Systems, Upgrading & EMR](#)

[Keys to EMR Success - Selecting and Implementing an Electronic Medical Record](#)