



Understanding the Healthcare eDiscovery Challenges

Streamline workflows, reduce risk, and stay compliant in 2026

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Billions of dollars, billions of records, are you ready for the next era of healthcare eDiscovery?

The healthcare eDiscovery market hit **\$2.1 billion in 2025** and is projected to surge to nearly **\$3.7 billion by 2032**. Behind this explosive growth lies a stark reality: healthcare has become the epicenter of one of the most data-intensive, compliance-driven challenges of our time.

With patient information now spread across EHRs, telehealth platforms, cloud apps, and mobile devices, legal teams face enormous pressure to collect, protect, and produce sensitive data without error. The consequences of a misstep? Costly litigation, regulatory fines, and the erosion of patient trust.

Healthcare organizations can no longer afford outdated or ad-hoc discovery practices. As data volumes multiply and regulations tighten, eDiscovery has shifted from a back-office function to a mission-critical capability.



Challenge 1

Data Complexity and Volume

Healthcare organizations generate vast amounts of data every day, from electronic health records (EHRs) and diagnostic imaging to telehealth sessions, mobile apps, and patient communications. Unlike other industries, this data isn't uniform; it spans structured databases, unstructured notes, multimedia files, and messages across multiple platforms.

This diversity makes eDiscovery especially challenging. Collecting and reviewing information from fragmented sources takes significant time and resources, while increasing the risk of missed records or mishandled protected health information (PHI). As data volumes continue to grow, the complexity of managing them defensibly only escalates.

The Reality in Numbers

Healthcare data is expanding at an unprecedented pace. The global Big Data in Healthcare market was valued at **USD 50.74 billion in 2024** and is projected to more than double, reaching **USD 134.17 billion by 2033** (Straits Research).

A Real-World Example

Consider a malpractice lawsuit filed against a hospital. The discovery request requires access to patient EHRs stored in one vendor's system, radiology images from a separate imaging platform, clinician emails within Microsoft 365, and care notes exchanged via a secure messaging app.

Now reconciling these formats into a defensible production set can take weeks, stretching IT and legal resources thin. Along the way, the risk of missing critical records or inadvertently exposing PHI remains alarmingly high.

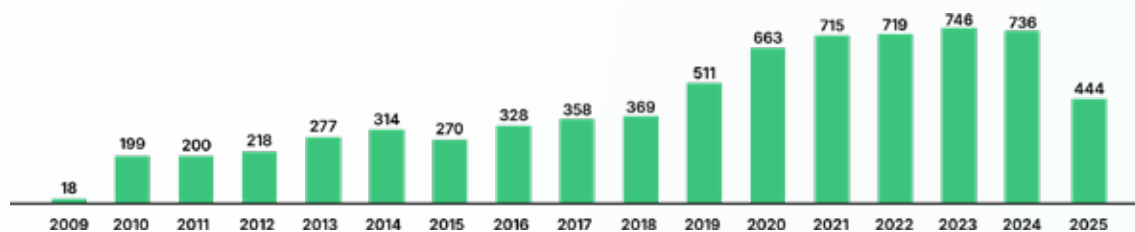
Challenge 2

Privacy and Compliance Risks

Few industries carry as heavy a compliance burden as healthcare. Every discovery effort must be carefully managed to protect sensitive patient information while meeting strict regulatory obligations. Beyond HIPAA and HITECH in the U.S., global frameworks such as GDPR and evolving state privacy laws add layers of complexity.

This makes eDiscovery a tightrope walk: organizations must collect and produce information defensibly, but even the slightest misstep, such as over-disclosure of protected health information (PHI), can trigger regulatory penalties, lawsuits, and lasting reputational harm.

The Reality in Numbers



Healthcare remains the most expensive industry for data breaches. In 2024 alone, the protected health information of **276,775,457 individuals** was exposed or stolen, roughly **758,288 records per day** (HIPAA Journal).

A Real-World Example

A regional health system facing a government investigation into billing practices must produce patient and claims data across several systems. While collecting records, the discovery team inadvertently includes files containing PHI unrelated to the case.

The overproduction not only complicates the matter legally but also triggers a HIPAA compliance review, turning an already sensitive investigation into a costly regulatory crisis.

Challenge 3

Fragmented and Siloed Data

Unlike industries that operate on centralized platforms, healthcare organizations rely on a patchwork of systems: EHR platforms, imaging systems, billing software, cloud storage, and even legacy databases that don't communicate easily. This fragmentation creates "data silos," making it incredibly difficult for legal teams to locate, collect, and unify records during discovery.

The challenge is compounded by mergers, acquisitions, and affiliations in the healthcare sector, which often leave organizations managing data across multiple, disconnected IT environments. Without a cohesive way to access information, discovery efforts become slow, inconsistent, and vulnerable to error.

The Reality in Numbers

Healthcare is rapidly moving deeper into the cloud, but in increasingly fragmented ways. A 2023 TechTarget survey found that **73% of healthcare organizations now rely on multiple public cloud vendors**, underscoring the complexity of managing data across diverse environments.

A Real-World Example

Consider a hospital network involved in a multi-state litigation. Patient records are spread across three different EHR systems due to past acquisitions, radiology images are stored in a separate PACS system, and billing data resides in yet another financial platform.

When discovery requests arrive, pulling all this information together requires cross-team coordination, manual exports, and format conversions, turning what should be a streamlined process into weeks of painstaking effort.

Challenge 4

Cost and Resource Strain

eDiscovery in healthcare isn't just complex, it's expensive. The sheer volume and variety of sensitive data drive up costs for collection, processing, and review, all while requiring highly skilled legal, IT, and compliance professionals to manage the process. Smaller hospitals and regional health systems, in particular, often struggle to allocate budgets and staff for these resource-intensive projects.

On top of that, discovery timelines are rarely flexible. Legal teams are expected to deliver accurate, defensible productions under tight deadlines, forcing organizations to either over-invest in external support or stretch internal teams to their breaking point. The result is an unsustainable cycle of high spend and workforce strain.

The Reality in Numbers

With the rise of AI-assisted review, cost models are evolving. **37% of respondents in the Summer 2025 eDiscovery Pricing Survey reported per-document billing for GenAI-assisted review, with rates of \$0.26–\$0.50 per document (ComplexDiscovery).**

A Real-World Example

A mid-sized health system receives multiple subpoenas related to opioid prescribing practices. To comply, the discovery team must collect millions of records from disparate systems, process them into usable formats, and conduct privilege reviews.

Furthermore, lacking in-house capacity, the hospital turns to outside vendors only to find costs spiraling into the hundreds of thousands. The strain doesn't end with the budget; internal staff face weeks of overtime to meet deadlines, creating both financial and human resource pressure.

Challenge 5

Speed and Urgency

In healthcare eDiscovery, speed is not just a convenience, it's a legal necessity. Regulatory bodies, courts, and opposing counsel often impose tight deadlines for data production, requiring healthcare organizations to swiftly collect, process, and review vast amounts of sensitive information. Delays can lead to legal sanctions, reputational damage, and missed opportunities for settlement or defense.

Moreover, the urgency is compounded by the increasing volume and complexity of data. Healthcare providers must balance the need for rapid response with the imperative to maintain data integrity and compliance with regulations like HIPAA.

The Reality in Numbers

In 2024, there were 14 data breaches involving more than 1 million healthcare records, including the largest healthcare data breach of all time, which affected an estimated 190 million individuals.

A Real-World Example

A regional health system faces a government investigation into billing practices and must produce patient and claims data across several systems. While collecting records, the discovery team inadvertently includes files containing Protected Health Information (PHI) unrelated to the case.

This overproduction not only complicates the matter legally but also triggers a HIPAA compliance review, turning an already sensitive investigation into a costly regulatory crisis.

Solutions to Healthcare eDiscovery Challenges

Managing Data Complexity & Volume

Volume overload isn't just a matter of "too much data." It creates cost pressure, technical strain, and legal exposure - all of which threaten defensibility.

Ensuring Privacy & Compliance

Without proactive strategies such as: AI-assisted culling, deduplication, and early case assessment, the rising tide of data threatens to overwhelm even the best-prepared legal teams. The organizations that succeed will be those that control scale early in the review process.

Breaking Down Siloed Systems

Data scattered across multiple platforms slows discovery and increases errors. Unified data management and cross-system search allow legal teams to access everything from a single interface. Venio's platform connects disparate sources, making workflows seamless and reducing manual reconciliation.

Controlling Costs & Resource Strain

eDiscovery can be resource-intensive and expensive, especially for mid-sized healthcare providers. Automation and AI-assisted review reduce reliance on external vendors and optimize internal staff time. Venio helps organizations manage costs while improving efficiency.

Meeting Speed & Urgency Requirements

Tight deadlines demand fast collection, processing, and production without compromising accuracy. Advanced search, automated workflows, and accelerated review ensure timely delivery. Venio's tools enable legal teams to meet critical deadlines confidently.

About Venio Systems

At Venio Systems, we are dedicated to working with our trusted partners to bring the latest legal technology innovations to law firms, agencies, and corporations. We combine advanced technology with practical design to deliver smarter eDiscovery. Our all-in-one platform helps organizations streamline workflows, reduce costs, and maintain defensibility at every stage of the EDRM.

Why Venio is Different

Traditional Tools

- Multiple tools, fragmented workflows
- Error-prone manual processes
- Limited reporting visibility
- High per-user licensing costs
- Difficult to scale with modern data types

Venio Systems

- Unified end-to-end platform
- Automated, AI-driven workflows
- Real-time dashboards & analytics
- Flexible, cost-efficient pricing
- Scalable, future-ready architecture



Ready to Rethink eDiscovery?

Book a Demo Today!



VENIO



Venio
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Venio ECA



Venio
AI Review



Venio
Production