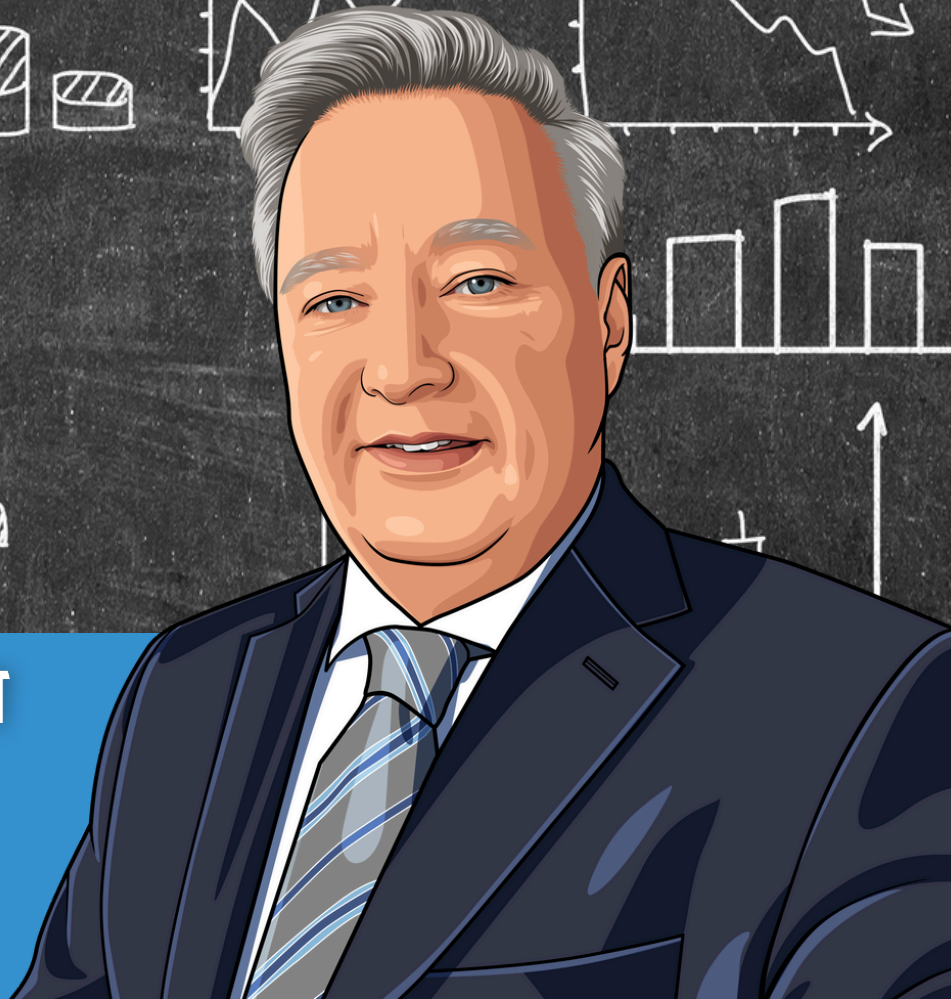




DATA INTEGRITY: THE MISSING LINK IN HEALTHCARE OPERATIONS



VALUE ANALYSIS EXPERT

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Stephen B. Kinsella | President
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Power Supply Value Analysis Expert™:

Data Integrity: The Missing Link in Healthcare Operations

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Data integrity drives effective decision-making, improves patient outcomes, and optimizes operational efficiency in healthcare organizations. However, it is often overlooked and can be seen as the missing link that hinders progress.

Recognizing data integrity problems can be challenging. But the signs are there if you know where to look: inconsistent or inaccurate data, missing or duplicate entries, unexplained discrepancies, and difficulties in data analysis or reporting. Regular data audits and quality checks can help.

Unfortunately, data integrity problems are pervasive in healthcare organizations. Inaccurate or incomplete data, manual data entry errors, siloed data sources, and data migration issues all contribute, impacting decision-making and patient care.

Data integrity is often neglected due to competing priorities, inadequate resources, lack of awareness, siloed data systems, and data complexity. Yet, failing to establish data integrity has severe consequences.

It can result in erroneous financial reporting, inefficient operations, wasted resources, increased costs, reduced trust in data, slowed decision-making, and even compromised patient safety.

The first step in addressing data integrity problems is **acknowledgment**. Organizations must establish a team to assess the problem, identify its causes, and develop a data integrity improvement plan.

While not mandatory, automated data management systems help. They streamline data collection, storage, and validation processes, reduce the likelihood of manual errors, and increase accuracy and consistency.

Cleansing entails: identifying data sources, assessing data quality, addressing discrepancies, eliminating duplicate or outdated entries, standardizing formats, and establishing data governance practices.

It requires careful planning, resource allocation, and collaboration. The length of time required depends on the extent of the issues and their complexity, but the benefits of cleansing far outweigh its costs.

Once data integrity is restored, healthcare organizations can reap benefits including: improved decision-making, enhanced patient safety outcomes, better efficiency, optimized resource allocation, cost savings, and renewed trust in data-driven initiatives. Only then can the true power of reliable data be unlocked!

Have more value analysis questions? Contact Stephen at: skinsella@dataleveragegroup.com

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Stephen B. Kinsella is the founder and principal of Data Leverage Group, LLC. He is a supply chain management professional with over 20 years of experience in the healthcare supply chain. As President of DLG, Steve is responsible for the strategic direction of DLG. He is also responsible for all business development and strategic partnerships. In the past, Steve has helped many healthcare organizations to assess and identify non-labor savings opportunities, from operational redesign and improvement projects to extensive supply cost reduction. His focus has been to identify quantitative, data driven opportunities for savings and improvements that support quick implementation by working closely with supply chain and value analysis teams.

For all your value analysis questions, you can contact Stephen at skinsella@dataleveragegroup.com or visit the DLG team at dataleveragegroup.com



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