

The True Cost of Deferred Maintenance in Healthcare

Deferred maintenance is no longer just a facilities backlog. It’s a system-wide risk impacting funding decisions, patient safety, compliance, and operational resilience across healthcare systems. Leading healthcare organizations are shifting from reactive fixes to strategic investment planning using data and Asset Investment Planning (AIP).

The reality of deferred maintenance

Aging infrastructure is putting healthcare systems at risk. When critical infrastructure fails, the impact is immediate: capacity drops, workflows stall, and safety risks rise.



56%
of healthcare assets have exceeded expected useful life (across thousands of facilities and 90,000+ assets)



60%
of HVAC systems have exceeded their expected useful life

What is deferred maintenance?

Deferred maintenance refers to delayed repairs and replacements that compound risk over time. It’s often driven by short-term budget constraints or competing priorities, but the consequences extend far beyond facilities teams.

What begins as a cost-control decision can evolve into a broader threat to operations, compliance, and patient care.

The true cost of delays

Delaying infrastructure investment doesn’t eliminate cost — it shifts it, often making it more disruptive and harder to control.

Financial impact Aging, unreliable systems lead to unplanned downtime and disrupted hospital workflows. Maintenance teams spend more time reacting to failures and less time planning proactively. Reactive repairs can cost several times more than planned replacements.	Operational impact Reactive repairs can cost multiples of planned replacements, forcing emergency spending and increasing budget volatility. Over time, this accelerates asset failure and shortens replacement cycles instead of extending asset life.	Patient safety impact Infrastructure failures disrupt care environments. Equipment downtime delays procedures, strain staff, and introduces safety and compliance risks that directly impact patient care. When power, medical gas, or vacuum systems fail, patient care and procedures may be delayed or stopped entirely.
---	--	--

Reframing deferred maintenance as deferred investment

Leading healthcare organizations are changing how they approach deferral. Instead of treating deferred maintenance as an unavoidable backlog, they’re managing it as a strategic investment decision.

With the right data, organizations can:

Extend asset life where needed	Identify and prioritize high-risk systems	Direct limited capital to the areas with the greatest operational and clinical impact
--	---	---

Turning risk into action with AIP and ALM

Asset Investment Planning (AIP) helps healthcare organizations move from assumptions to confidence by tracking asset condition and performance, forecasting lifecycle costs, and modeling funding scenarios	Asset Lifecycle Management (ALM) connects daily maintenance decisions with long-term capital strategy, helping organizations reduce emergency repairs, improve compliance readiness, and plan with greater predictability and confidence.
Outcome Smarter investment decisions that reduce risk, protect patient care, and strengthen operational resilience across the healthcare system.	