Biggest Operational Challenges Facing Hospitals and Medical Facilities

THE DIRECT ANSWER

The biggest operational challenges in 2026: (1) the skilled-trades workforce shortage — retiring technicians with no pipeline behind them; (2) aging infrastructure — the average US hospital is decades old with compounding deferred maintenance; (3) energy cost and decarbonization pressure ; (4) regulatory complexity — overlapping Joint Commission, CMS, state, and local requirements; (5) cyber-physical risk — building automation systems as attack surfaces; and (6) capital scarcity — every facilities dollar competing with clinical investment and thin margins.

WHY THESE SIX COMPOUND

- They reinforce each other: aging buildings need more maintenance exactly as the workforce shrinks; decarbonization demands capital that margins don't provide; cyber risk grows as systems get "smarter" with fewer people watching them.

FIELD QUESTION

What is the hardest facilities challenge for hospitals?

The skilled-trades workforce shortage — institutional knowledge retiring with no pipeline behind it.

From Healthcare Facility Hub - free, like everything on the site. The full article is at the link below.

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