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Capital equipment products

Capital equipment spending trends continue to reflect investment in imaging, procedural infrastructure, and operational capacity. Compared to the winter 2026 analysis, many capital equipment categories saw higher total spend, even if their relative share of overall capital spend declined. This indicates continued modernization and expansion, while also reflecting broader investment across imaging, procedural infrastructure, operational capacity, and digital capabilities.

Capital strategy is increasingly shaped by where care is delivered and how health systems plan for service line growth, rather than by modality or department-specific needs alone. Health systems are prioritizing technologies and equipment that support patient throughput, decentralized care delivery, and enterprise-wide operational efficiency.

Top 15 capital equipment spend categories

Rank	Product spend category	Portion of spend (%), summer 2026	Portion of spend (%), winter 2026[a]	Percentage point change[b]
1	Endoscopy equipment and accessories	14.2	16.6	−2.4↓
2	MR systems	8.1	8.3	−0.2↓
3	Patient monitoring	7.9	7.0	+0.9↑
4	Ultrasound equipment	7.8	8.7	−0.9↓
5	CT scanner systems	6.2	7.0	−0.8↓
6	Cardiac/vascular interventional systems	4.7	4.8	−0.1 ↓
7	Acute care and LTC beds	4.4	3.8	+0.6↑
8	General radiography equipment	3.5	4.1	−0.6↓
9	Molecular imaging and nuclear medicine	3.1	3.2	−0.1 ↓
10	**Clinical informatics**	**2.9**	—	**new**
11	Biopsy instruments and needles	2.2	2.0	+0.2↑
12	**Bariatric and therapeutic beds and support surfaces—rental**	**2.2**	—	**new**
13	Waste fluid management	2.0	2.6	−0.6↓
14	Ventilators	2.0	1.9	+0.1 ↑
15	**Stretchers**	**1.6**	—	**new**

Source: Vizient Product Reporting System, April 2025–March 2026
[a] Previously ranked in the winter 2026 Outlook, with data analyzed from October 2024–September 2025.
[b] Arrows indicate increase (↑) or decrease (↓) since the winter 2026 edition.

Category movements

Increases in spend

- **Patient monitoring (+0.9%):** Patient monitoring rose as health systems continued expanding enterprise monitoring strategies across acute, ambulatory, and virtual care settings. Interoperability, centralized telemetry management, and AI-enabled monitoring platforms also are contributing to renewed purchasing activity.

- **Acute care and LTC beds (+0.6%):** Capacity constraints, aging infrastructure, and ongoing throughput pressures continued driving investment in bed replacement and expansion strategies across acute and long-term care environments.

Decreases in spend

- **Endoscopy equipment and accessories (–2.4%):** The decline reflects a moderation in relative share following several years of elevated ambulatory expansion and procedural modernization activity, not a reduced need for endoscopy-related infrastructure.

- **Ultrasound equipment (–0.9%):** The decrease in portion of spend may reflect completion of significant fleet modernization and point-of-care ultrasound expansion initiatives, rather than reduced strategic importance.

- **CT scanner systems (–0.8%):** CT purchasing activity stabilized following accelerated replacement cycles.

New to the top 15

- **Clinical informatics:** Expansion of enterprise imaging, workflow orchestration, AI-enabled diagnostics, and interoperability initiatives elevated clinical informatics into the top spend categories. Health systems continue to prioritize digital infrastructure that improves operational visibility, data integration, and clinical decision support across care settings.

- **Bariatric and therapeutic beds and support surfaces—rental:** Increased patient acuity, rising obesity prevalence, and ongoing throughput challenges contributed to higher utilization of specialty rental bed and support surface programs.

- **Stretchers:** Continued emergency department crowding, procedural growth, and replacement of aging transport infrastructure contributed to increased stretcher-related spend.

Learn more about how these category movements connect to broader trends by visiting the **Spend Management Outlook**.