

eDiscovery in Life Sciences

The life sciences industry is becoming increasingly data dependent.

Due to the explosion of new data sources and lengthy retention requirements, life science organizations have become deluged in data. In addition, federal, state and international regulators are taking a larger role in mandating how data is controlled, utilized, managed and shared. Moreover, in a broad range of activities critical to life sciences, patient-level data is collected, analyzed and managed via such emerging technologies as the Cloud, cognitive computing and the Internet of Things (IoT). Accordingly, companies' legal departments are seeing an increase in the risk and cost that this diverse and massive amount of data brings and are being called to action in order to manage this data in the most efficient, cost-effective and compliant manner possible.

As life sciences organizations face these data-driven challenges, they must:



Collect and analyze the data needed to comply with established, new and evolving regulations



Execute an information lifecycle strategy to reduce the amount of electronically stored information (ESI) subject to legal hold and discovery review



Be mindful of the risks related to new data flowing in or out of the organization due to acquisitions and divestitures.



Take a disciplined approach to anticipating, managing and responding to eDiscovery requests from third parties



Identify appropriate resources and custom solutions for a holistic approach to data collection



Efficiently manage costs related to data required for regulatory compliance, and fulfillment of requests related to potential litigation or investigations



Why KPMG

KPMG's Forensic Technology Services (FTS) has over 15 years of experience supporting clients in the life sciences sector with novel, large-scale, agile solutions. We understand the unique challenges that have quickly changed the risk profiles and business management focus of our life science clients. KPMG brings advanced technology and processes to meet the rapidly changing needs of our clients in a cost-effective manner.

Using a wide range of sophisticated technologies, KPMG professionals can help organizations address the risks and costs involved with evidence and discovery management.

Our new and innovative approach to document review supplements traditional contract review management and technology-assisted review methodologies with an experienced industry team that provides more with less for our life science clients.

Our professionals have significant experience dealing with the regulatory challenges present in the life sciences industry.

We have dedicated technology centers enabling us to process, host, and distribute documents and data in manageable formats, while providing secure and private Web access to authorized users worldwide.

Our trained data analytics professionals process and perform analyses on large volumes of transactions, whether the data at issue involves pricing, claims, patients, interactions, procedures, payments, reimbursements, quality, coding, referrals, bundling, or utilization.

Our processes ensure the safeguarding of the "crown jewels", i.e., data that is essential to the business, eliminating risk exposures to sensitive content such as personally identifiable information (PII) and protected health information (PHI).

Examples of how we help clients:



Challenge The data volumes of eDiscovery reviews are growing immensely, making it unmanageable for a manual, linear review. It is becoming more commonplace to leverage technology-assisted review and analytics to cull down the amount of data that needs eyes on review. KPMG's methodology brings together technology, industry expertise and statistically-driven workflows to create a better eDiscovery review using defensible data reduction, review celerity and quality control.

Benefit Using technology-assisted review workflows based on continuous learning algorithms on a 150,000 document review, we were able to limit the review to only 46,000 documents of interest, creating a statistically valid sample of the remaining documents and saving the client \$100,000 or 66% on review related costs.



Challenge Why spend incremental money to re-process and re-review the same data matter after matter, year after year? We have implemented a cost- effective model that allows clients to create a "repository" of past responsiveness and privilege tagging that can be continually re-used to streamline the culling and review process on supplemental matters.

Benefit For a large enterprise client, we were able to realize savings of \$42,500 by re-using the processed data for custodians from an older matter. In another matter, using the tagging for responsiveness and privilege, our client was able to save \$26,000 in first-level review cost by sampling and validating the existing work.



Challenge Mergers and acquisitions are commonplace in the life sciences sector. As part of the M&A due diligence process, efficient contract reviews are necessary to, among other things, identify and extract key contractual provisions and policies, compare pricing and contract terms and identify and quantify variances across agreement evaluate compliance to commercial standards. Our clients turn to KPMG to manage their contract reviews in the most efficient way possible, leveraging a best-in-breed suite of contract analytic and review tools.

Benefit As a result of the recent acquisition of another large global organization, our client, a global pharmaceutical company, required KPMG to review and classify approximately 70,000 agreements in a very short period of time. KPMG worked closely with the client to create a specific data model and developed assessment and other protocols in consultation with client's representatives. KPMG then deployed the necessary technology (e.g., contract review platform, knowledge-sharing portal) and organized agreements and associated documentation (e.g., ancillaries) for counterparty relationships. KPMG eliminated duplicates, near duplicates (e.g. a non-executed copy of a contract), non-contracts, and other out of scope documents. KPMG then implemented analytic routines to auto classify document categories and achieve a 98% reviewer accuracy rate.

Contact us

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