As a consultant for a geriatric health care provider, I would recommend an Electronic Medical Record system, which has a Personal Health Portal and a telemedicine portal built-in which helps remote consultations, and remote monitoring, along with a strong Medication administration system.

The Electronic Medical Record system, as known, would help in improving the quality of health care, along with increasing the privacy of their data. The Personal Health Portal would be of great help to the geriatric population by letting them monitor their own health, and further motivate them to maintain better health. Thus improving their health and reducing the number of visits. The Portal can also host a page displaying their laboratory results, saving the staff time on telephonic conveying the results or even through the mail, if the patient stops the mail. Another possible feature that can benefit a geriatric population can be the reminders service. This can be very helpful, since the aged population are most prone to memory related disorders, they tend to forget their appointments and medication times. This can be a big problem in terms of broken appointments or no-shows. The Telemedicine portal can help the population in making conversations with the health care providers remotely from their homes, enabling them to understand about their health conditions, and encouraging them to take appropriate measures to maintain their health, the providers can also remotely monitor their health with a few applications. Additional features like scheduling will help them to set up their appointment by themselves. All these enable the IT department to stay in “alignment” with the organizational goal of reducing the costs in the form of reduced visits, and reduced staff time.

The Medication Administration Records system, for the inpatient populations can help them reduce errors in the administration of drugs. This technology should be administered such that there would be handheld tablets running on a wireless network. This will keep a record of the drugs administered, and prevent any unneeded drug reactions with drug-drug interactions, and drug allergies. This can be very much needed for a geriatric population since they may be very much sensitive to such reactions. Also the provider will be able to judge the progress of the patient’s condition and assess the need to reduce the drug dosage as needed. Again reducing the costs in the form of less reactions or allergies, and reduced medication requirement.

Although, the former technologies may be difficult for most of the geriatric patients to adapt to, they are to be customized for a better interface with larger fonts, and voice guidance. They can also be made secure and HIPPA compliant by the addition of secure logons. The latter one may not be that hard, with adequate IT governance, and if the organization is working towards continuous improvement, and is working with an organizational strategy of cost control.

Finally, I would suggest that these be built with HIPPA compliance, and the technologies should be easy to adapt for groups, the patients and the staff.