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IoT in healthcare

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Internet of Things (IoT) - an overview

Internet of Things is

- internetworking of physical devices ("things")
- that harvest information from the environment (through sensing)
- and interact with the physical world (through actuation, command and control)
- to provide services for information transfer, analytics, applications, and communications



The future connected world

Challenges faced in Indian healthcare ecosystem:



Lack of healthcare access

Increasing incidence of chronic diseases



Lack of infrastructure



Reactive approach



IoT can be leveraged to cater to these specific challenges :

- Provide information remotely
- Capture real-time patient information and assist with application of AI for early detection of serious illnesses
- Enable critical home care
- Enable the patient and healthcare providers to take proactive measures

Applications of IoT in healthcare

PwC Healthcare IT Survey 2018 highlighted increasing adoption of IoT by healthcare providers across 3 broad areas



Refers to the initiatives taken in a hospital so as to create an experience of friendly facilities for patients /caretakers.



1. Care delivery

Refers to the core purpose of a hospital to treat patients with utmost care from doctors, nurses and other staff.

3. Operational excellence

Refers to the initiatives taken at a hospital to enhance its logistic efficiency and automating typical detailintensive tasks like periodic data capture.

- Indoor navigation Smart medication packaging to monitor storage temperature*
- ICU vitals monitoring
 - Transmit data from legacy bio medical devices
 - Asset tracking*
 - Queue management*

* Global use cases

IoT use case #1: vital stats monitoring in ICU

Problem statement:

In an ICU where nurses manually record patient vitals at regular intervals, there is a risk of missing out on spikes in vitals. Doctors thus manually operate the monitors to view recent vitals.

Solution:

- Install IoT sensors on bedside monitors
- IoT sensors record vitals on a continuous basis
- Intuitive dashboards are prepared for doctors
- Doctors review the dashboards instead of relying on data entered manually by nurses

Implementation:

A leading multispecialty hospital in North India has been running a pilot program for the last two years on 10 ICU beds.



Problem statement:

Healthcare infrastructure in India is not enough to meet critical care demand. Moreover, for some illnesses and prolonged post operative care, it is preferable for patients to stay at home and receive the care and nurturing that only home environment can provide.

Solution:

Critical care at home:

- IoT based continuous monitoring
- ICU standard cleanliness and facilities
- Convenience of home
- Remote reviews by doctors and instruction to attending nurses

Implementation:

Multiple start-ups in India offer this service.





Problem statement:

Medication adherence is a primary determinant of treatment success. Non adherence can lead to worsening of disease, higher health care costs and in critical cases, death.

Solution:

Smart wireless pill bottles:

- Sensors are used to passively send real-time data to care providers
- Data is analyzed to identify anomalies
- On-bottle lights, SMS, phone calls and visits are arranged to ensure adherence and avoid human error
- Analysis of medication adherence is available for patients, doctors and family members

Implementation:

A start-up in USA has developed this smart wireless pill bottle. Their programs have shown an increase in adherence for speciality medications.



For IoT to scale beyond early adopters– it must overcome specific challenges within 3 main categories: privacy/security, technology and measurement



PwC recommends a systematic approach for implementing IoT technologies



Thank You

Illustrative list of healthcare IoT solution providers and platform providers

	S. No.	Provider	S. No.	Provider
IoT solution providers	1	Augmedix	5	Lively
	2	Azoi	6	Philips
	3	Cooey	7	SpanIdea
	4	Cygnet Infotech	8	[x]cube LABS
	S. No.	Provider	Platform	

IoT platform
providers

S. No.	Provider	Platform
1	GE	Predix
2	Hewlett Packard Enterprise	Universal Internet of Things (IoT)
3	SAP	Leonardo