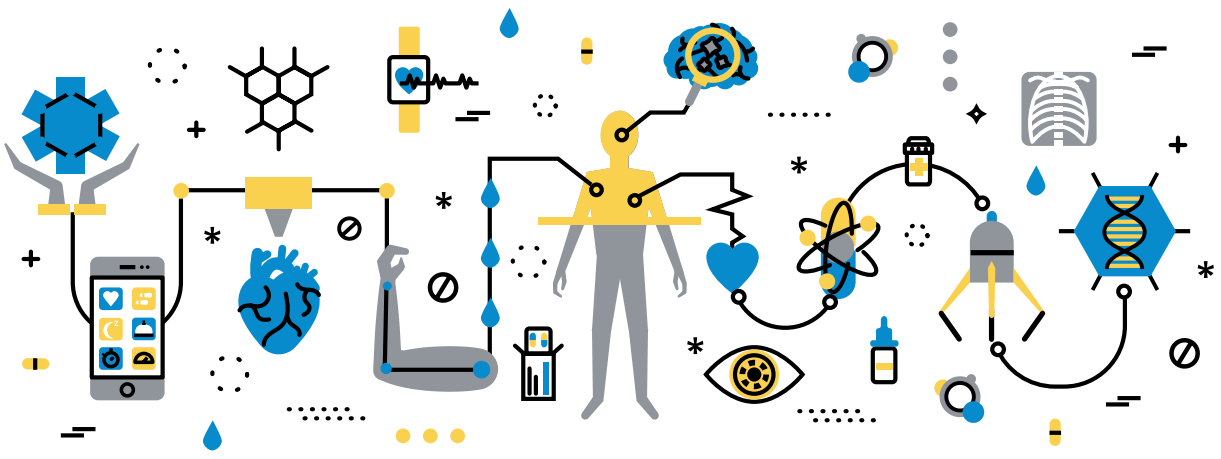
WHAT'S TRENDING IN HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGY?

2018
THE FUTURE STARTS NOW

Healthcare technologies are advancing at a rapid pace, with adoption of new technologies and services growing faster than ever before.

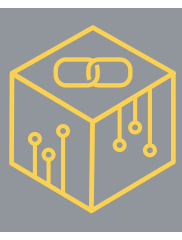


Healthcare technology is BIG business

In the United States, healthcare spending has increased by nearly **$1 trillion** in the past 20 years[1], thanks in large part to an aging population and the bevy of new technologies and services to treat patients and streamline healthcare operations to trim costs.

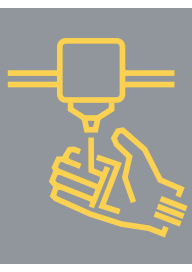
So, what's trending in the healthcare technology space? Here are five technologies to watch:

Artificial Intelligence and Robotics: AI is being used in multiple ways, from screening mammograms at lightning speed to monitoring early stage heart disease.[2] Robotics, meanwhile are doing everything from drawing patients' blood[3] to helping caregivers move patients into and out of bed.[4]



Blockchain: Best associated with cryptocurrency, blockchain is performing the dual role of making data more accessible while making it more secure—a win-win for practitioners, patients and insurance companies alike.[5]

Augmented Reality: Medical students can use smart glasses to "see" how systems of the body interact and assist them during surgical procedures, while physicians, nurses and even back-office employees can get instant access to vital patient data.[6]



3D Printing: Artificial limbs, custom medical devices, human tissue … all are being generated using 3D printing.[7] Next up: 3D-printed customized medication based on a patient's metabolism and genetic makeup.[8]

Advances in IoT: IoT in health care is moving well beyond fitness trackers and glucose monitors. The next generation of IoT devices will include miniaturization and implants to manage pain, detect disease or even help paralyzed patients walk.[9]

The Vital Network

Now is the time to ensure your network is robust enough to support the demands of new-generation technologies in health care. Partner with a service provider that can provide reliable, flexible connectivity with scalable bandwidth and direct access to major cloud service providers.

1 "Rising prices, larger population major causes of increase in healthcare spending," UPI, Nov. 8, 2017 https://www.upi.com/Rising-prices-larger-population-major-causes-of-increase-in-healthcare-spending/2291510145223/

2 "No longer science fiction, AI and robotics are transforming healthcare," PwC webpage https://www.pwc.com/gx/en/industries/healthcare/publications/ai-robotics-new-health/transforming-healthcare.html

3 "17 Amazing Healthcare Technology Advances of 2017," referralMD, Jan. 17, 2017 https://getreferralmd.com/2017/01/17-future-healthcare-technology-advances-of-2017-referralmd/

4 "Robotics in Healthcare — Get Ready!" The Medical Futurist, http://medicalfuturist.com/robotics-healthcare/

5 "Healthcare rallies for blockchains," research report, IBM Institute for Business Value conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit https://www-01.ibm.com/common/ssi/cgi-bin/ssialias?htmlfid=GBE03790USEN&

6 "4 Ways Augmented Reality Will Transform the Medical World," HIT Infrastructure, Aug. 4, 2017 http://hitconsultant.net/2017/08/04/augmented-reality-medical-world/

7 Juliet Van Wagenen, "Is Healthcare on the Cusp of a 3D Medical Printing Revolution?" HealthTech, Aug. 21, 2017 https://healthtechmagazine.net/article/2017/08/healthcare-cusp-3d-medical-printing-revolution

8 "17 Amazing Healthcare Technology Advances of 2017," referralMD, Jan. 17, 2017 https://getreferralmd.com/2017/01/17-future-healthcare-technology-advances-of-2017-referralmd/

9 Bart Schouw, "My connected body: The future of IoT in healthcare," IoT Agenda, TechTarget, March 7, 2017 http://internetofthingsagenda.techtarget.com/blog/IoT-Agenda/My-connected-body-The-future-of-IoT-in-healthcare

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