



Use of Digital Health ID Cards in India

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Abstract

In developing countries like India, there is an absence of a proper health care management system. Many people wait in lines at the registration desk at the hospital or struggle with their insurance companies for the sanction of bills. This paper focuses to design an efficient and paperless digital health care management system with the help of smart health identity cards and their potential.

Keywords: *ID: Identity card, Portal: A web portal, a web-based platform that collects information from different sources into a single user interface and presents users with the most relevant information for their context., Insurer: a health insurance company that provides the insurance.*

Introduction

Nowadays, we have all our personal data and information in digital format. Especially the Indian government health application “Arogya Setu” which carries our personal and health information. Similarly, a Health ID card in a digital format on our smartphones will revolutionize the Indian health care management system as discussed further.

Health ID Card

The health ID card will contain a unique health identification number which will be assigned to every citizen who registers himself/herself. This unique health identification number consists of details such as:

1. Basic personal details: such as name, date of birth, address, contact.
2. Previous and Existing health data of that individual.
3. Bank account and payment details
4. Health Insurance policy

These details are important because when a person with a Health ID card is trying to register at a hospital for admission, he/she won't waste time registering themselves at the hospital by filling out a form with pen and paper. By scanning the health ID card at the hospital front desk reception, the person eliminates this hassle. One benefit of using a health ID card that is linked to the bank account and the person's health insurer is that immediately when the person scans their health ID card, the registration fees are debited from the bank or the health insurer is notified for payment of hospital and medicines.

Hospital Portal System

In order to register patients through the use of a Health identification digital card, the receptionist at the hospital/clinic needs to have an online portal system to scan the ID card and register patients at the hospital. Thus the Hospital portal works on two factors:

1. One portal for all hospitals/clinics
2. Paperless and efficient

Every hospital/clinic in India is given a unique login id and password to sign in to their portal, thus on a server-based platform through a working internet connection. Currently, every hospital has its own offline software to manage the incoming and outgoing patients' health records, this creates a huge number of offline data

collection which leads to investing in IT services for the running of hospitals. The new online hospital portal system eliminates this investment in offline-based software and machinery as it saves all the data on the cloud.

Storing data on the cloud helps the hospitals to go full paperless by not providing physical files and paper to the patients, if any patient needs to visit another hospital he/she can scan the health ID card, and all the patient history from the cloud is shared with the hospital. Not carrying a bunch of health history in files and folders results in reducing the carbon footprint by saving paper.

Uses and Benefits

Many patients in India wait in long lines for their turn to get adequate care at the hospital, the amount of time that is lost in filling a pen paper-based registration form can be used to give proper health care to the patient by simply scanning a health identity card. In some worst cases, patients are struggling and suffering but are requested to fill out the forms first to register at the hospital.

Patient's Benefit

Patients' time is saved and health care is given priority. Patients do not need to carry files, folders, and reports to the hospital as the Health ID card has it all.

Hospital's Benefit

The hospital doesn't need to invest money in personalized offline software. Health ID card saves front desk hassle and time, less staff is required on front desk thus directly cutting down the need for human resources on the front desk reception. Less use of papers and files also saves money for the hospital.

Conclusion

The uses and benefits of a digital Health ID card in India show great potential. In today's post, covid India from schools and colleges to jobs have become online and work from home, India is a growing digitally. Thus looking at the usage of the Government of India's "Arogya Setu" smartphone application, having a digital health identification card for visiting hospitals and storing all the bills and payments can fix the flaws in India's health care management system and hence benefiting the citizens of India.

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