

From the Patron's Desk

The Internet of Medical Things (IoMT)



10.18579/jpcrk/2017/16/4/122811



The Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) is an off shoot of Internet of Things, which can be explained as collection of medical, drug delivery devices and applications that connect to healthcare IT systems through online computer networks. Medical devices equipped with Wi-Fi allow the machine-to-machine communication that is the basis of IoMT. IoMT devices link to cloud platforms, on which captured data can be stored and analyzed. IoMT is also known as healthcare Internet of Things.

The implementations of IoMT include remote patient monitoring of people with chronic or long-term conditions; tracking patient medication orders and the location of patients admitted to hospitals; and patients' wearable devices or MEMS embedded in mobile phones, which can send information to caregivers. Infusion pumps that connect to analytics dashboards and hospital beds coupled with sensors that measure patients' vital signs are medical devices that can be converted to or deployed as IoMT technology.

IoMT wearble technologies also helps collect vital inputs can be used as drug development disease prediction and monitoring platforms as showcased by Apple Heart Study in association Stanford University this year

As is the case with the larger Internet of Things (IoT), there are now more possible applications of IoMT than before because many consumer mobile devices are built with Near Field Communication (NFC) radio frequency identification (RFID) tags that allow the devices to share information with IT systems. RFID tags can also be placed on medical equipment and supplies so that hospital staff can remain aware of the quantities they have in stock.

The practice of using IoMT devices to remotely monitor patients in their homes has given a fillip to telemedicine too. This kind of treatment spares patients from traveling to a hospital or physician's office whenever they have a medical question or change in their condition.