

Partners Center for Connected Health Symposium

Safeguarding and Using Patient Data in Connected Healthcare: FDA, Privacy, and Other Legal and Regulatory Issues

Scenario Number 1 -- General ownership and use of data

- One of the many benefits of telemedicine is that it permits ailing patients to stay away from the hospital and older patients to stay away from nursing homes and allows them to receive medical care through various connected health technologies and services. Often other companies or caretakers are involved in this care. This results in patient information being collected and transmitted in a way that is different from the traditional manner of direct medical records created in the doctor's office/hospital setting with the patient present. This raises a number of issues.

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Scenario Number 2 - Implantable and wearable devices

- One promising aspect of connected health is the increasing ability of patients to have implantable or wearable devices monitoring their bodily functions, regulating conditions like sugar levels and blood pressure and adjusting medication levels. Data is communicated from these devices to physicians who may alert the patient, instruct the device to vary its functions, and take other actions that directly affect the patient's care. What are some of the issues here?