Data Gathering for Medical Devices

Aayush Kumar

Introduction

This current event relates to medical devices, which is to be created by google. This is a tool that is used to determine the problem that a patient is facing through the symptoms that is entered by the user into the device [1].

Data analyzed to provide output

Not a replacement for medical advice/doctors

Scenario

Google has decided that the creation of medical devices and medications is the next lucrative field to be in. To do this they want to get hospitals and doctors to sign up with them to create medical database recording all symptoms and lab results on all patients seen by the hospitals/doctors. This data would be datamined to help in the discovery of new drugs but also to create new treatments and would be available to the hospital/doctor. Patients would not be told about this data gathering.

Ethical Dilemma

- A hospital CEO must decide to participate in the data gathering or not. This data gathering includes all the patient's medical information.

- Legal vs Moral

Pros and Cons of gathering data.

Pros:

- Improving Diagnosis [2]
- Use of medical database outside of google's device

Cons:

- Risk of the doctor's job
- Privacy of patients [3]

Societal Issue

- Many patients would not want their medical information to be concealed.

- Breaks HIPAA Privacy Rule[3]

    "Unless provided by law, or authorized by you, your doctor, HMO, or other medical provider may not disclose, sell, or otherwise use your medical information for any purpose other than as is necessary for providing direct health care services to you"

Intended Consequences

- Google can create a medical device that would have a better diagnosis

- People can find this device more helpful that doctor advice mainly due to less human error and cost benefits.

Unintended Consequences

- Doctor's job is at risk.

- The database on the patient's medical information could fall into wrong hands and be misused.

Future Aspects

- Medicine and diseases keep developing

- If the device becomes a reality, many doctors could lose their jobs

Bibliography

- [1]Whooley, Sean. "Google Set to Launch Its First Medical Device." MassDevice, 20 May 2021, www.massdevice.com/google-set-to-launch-its-first-medical-device/.
- [2]Brown, Traci. "Pros and Cons of Artificial Intelligence in Health Care." Jama Software, Traci Brown /Media/Jama-Logo-Primary.svg, 31 May 2018, www.jamasoftware.com/blog/pros-and-cons-of-artificial-intelligence-in-health-care/.
- [3]Secretary, HHS Office of the, and Office for Civil Rights (OCR). "Summary of the HIPAA Privacy Rule." HHS.gov, US Department of Health and Human Services, 26 July 2013, www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/laws-regulations/index.html.