Potential Uses for Augmented Reality in Healthcare

Defibrillators are typically located in high visibility and high traffic areas. However, it is not always easy to find one. To fix this problem, Lucien Engelen from Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre created an app that is downloadable to any mobile device and can locate the closest AED or defibrillators. So far, the app has only been released in European countries, but it can be expected that a similar technology will be introduced to the states. The application has a “results found” feature and the ability to access the device's camera and show exactly where a defibrillator would be located.

Patients often have a hard time describing their symptoms to their doctors with good accuracy. Sometimes, the patients over react when it comes to a medical situation, and possibly even underreact. There is an app that can help patients actually describe symptoms accurately. It uses a camera display to simulate the vision of the patient who has the specific conditions. The name of the app is EyeDecide. The application uses a camera for simulating what symptoms the patient is experiencing.

A new company that’s sole purpose is to help doctors and nurses to locate the vein while completing an intravenous injection and pierce the vein accurately. AccuVein, a company that has increasingly become more and more popular, stated that 40% of all intravenous injections miss the vein on the first try. The marketing specialist, Vinny Luciano, estimated that on more than 10 million patients, finding the vein on the first stick is 3.5x more likely with the new technology.

It can be expected that any patient that gets prescription drugs from their pharmacy company does not take enough time to read the labels on the side of the container. With the assistance of augmented reality, the user of the drugs can see how the medicine works in 3D.