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MEDICAL DEVICE WITH NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSOR

Abstract

A wearable defibrillator is configured to be ambulatory and move with a patient and further configured to receive and provide custom prompts. The wearable defibrillator includes a garment, sensing electrodes configured to sense the patient's ECG, therapy electrodes configured to deliver therapeutic defibrillating shocks to the patient, and an external medical device controller electrically connected to the sensing electrodes and therapy electrodes. The external medical device controller includes a data storage and at least one processor configured to perform a series of instructions that, when executed by the at least one processor, cause the at least one processor to receive one or more custom prompts from a health care professional for a physical activity test, cause the at least one processor to administer the physical activity test to the patient and communicate the one or more custom prompts to the patient during the physical activity test.

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Related U.S. Application Data

Background/Summary

RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] The present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 as a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 14/657,790, titled "Medical Device with Natural Language Processor," filed on Mar. 13, 2015, which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (e) to U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 62/025,660, titled "Wearable Defibrillator," filed on Jul. 17, 2014, and to U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 62/021,609, titled "Wearable Defibrillator," filed on Jul. 7, 2014, each of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND
Technical Field
[0002] This disclosure relates to medical devices, and more particularly to medical devices that include user interfaces.
Discussion
[0003] Modern medical devices embody a variety of user interface components. These user interface components may include both input and output components. Examples of components that generate sensory output include visual displays, speakers, and electromechanical vibrators. Examples of components that receive input include touch screens, buttons, and switches. In combination, these inputs and outputs enable users, such as patients, care providers, and others, to setup and operate medical devices to the benefit of patients.
SUMMARY
[0004] Some aspects and examples disclosed herein implement a user interface in which communications are exchanged between a medical device and a user in a natural language (e.g., spoken/verbal communication in any language, sign language for the hearing impaired, and/or Braille for the visually impaired). For example, medical devices in accord with some examples store data descriptive of one or more prompts to be provided to a user to initiate a response from the user. Each of the one or more prompts may include one or more words, phrases, or sentences rendered as one or more declaratives, interrogatories, imperatives, or exclamations. The data descriptive of the one or more prompts may be stored as encoded data, such as text, that is decoded by a natural language processing component. In some examples, the natural language processing component renders the one or more prompts as audio prompts via a speaker or some other audio or tactile output device. In some examples, the natural language processing component renders the one or more prompts as sign language via a display, such as a touch screen.
[0005] In some examples, sets of these prompts are grouped together to form customized health surveys, instructions, and training materials. The training materials may cover normal usage of the external medical device and maintenance topics, such as battery replacement, garment care, assembly/attachment of components, and the like. In these examples, the prompts included in a customized health survey may be selected by a user in view of the medical history and current condition of a patient. In some examples, prompts included in training materials and instructions may be selected by a user in view of an operational issue with the medical device (e.g., maintenance that needs to be performed) or an inability of a user to accomplish some objective

regarding the medical device (e.g., the user has been unable to silence an alarm emitted by the medical device).

[0006] In some examples, an external medical device is provided. The external medical device includes a memory and circuitry, in communication with the memory, to receive input specifying at least in part at least one prompt relating to a health survey for a patient, the at least one prompt being customized based on the patient; convert the at least one prompt to an audio representation; and perform the health survey by at least delivering to the patient the audio representation.

[0007] In the external medical device, the circuitry may include circuitry to provide a user interface including a set of selectable prompts directed to a condition of the patient. The circuitry may include circuitry to determine, based on the input, a time period for the health survey comprising the at least one prompt relating to the health survey; and schedule the health survey for the patient during the time period. The circuitry may include circuitry to determine the time period based on an operating mode of the device. The circuitry may include circuitry to determine the time period based on an operating mode of the device, wherein the operating mode includes a health survey mode and the time period based on the health survey mode is as soon as possible.

[0008] In the external medical device, the input may specify the target time period. The input may omit the target time period and the circuitry may include circuitry to store the target time period as a default time period. The circuitry may include circuitry to output the at least one audio representation during the target time period. The circuitry may include circuitry to receive at least one response to the at least one prompt, record the at least one response, determine results based on the at least one response, and provide the results to an external entity via the user interface. The circuitry to receive the at least one response may include circuitry to process audio representations. The circuitry may includes circuitry to receive at least one response to the at least one prompt and output an audio representation of at least one other prompt based on the at least one prompt and the at least one response.

[0009] In the external medical device, the at least one prompt may include a plurality of prompts. The circuitry may include a global positioning system (GPS) receiver and circuitry to receive a location identifier from the GPS receiver, to determine a language associated with the location, and the audio representation is converted to the language. The target time period may include a reoccurring time period. The circuitry may include circuitry to receive at least one response to the at least one prompt, identify the at least one response as at least one addressable response, and address the response.

[0010] The external medical device may further include a cross-reference stored in the memory. The cross-reference may include associations between response types and addresses for target recipients. The circuitry of the external medical device may include circuitry to receive at least one response to the at least one prompt, to identify at least one response type of the at least one response, to identify at least one address for at least one target recipient from the cross-reference using the at least one response type, and to transmit at least one notification to the at least one target recipient.

[0011] In some examples, the cross-reference may include associations between response types and addresses for target recipients. The circuitry of the external medical device may include circuitry to receive at least one response to the at least one prompt, to identify at least one response type of the at least one response, to identify at least one address for at least one target recipient from the cross-reference using the at least one response type, and to transmit at least one notification to the at least one target recipient, the target recipient being a device associated with at least one of a healthcare provider, support provider, and care taker and the notification including an natural language representation of at least one of a name of the patient, a location of the patient, a condition of the patient, and the at least one response.

[0012] In some examples, the cross-reference may include associations between response types and priorities for subsequent actions. The circuitry of the external medical device may include circuitry

to receive at least one response to the at least one prompt, to identify at least one response type of the at least one response, to identify at least one priority from the cross-reference using the at least one response type, and to transmit at least one notification with the at least one priority.

[0013] In some examples, an external medical device is provided. The external medical device includes a memory and circuitry, in communication with the memory, to monitor one or more indicators of a patient's health, detect a potential health condition based on the one or more indicators, identify at least one prompt associated with the potential condition, generate audio output conveying the at least one prompt, receive a response to the at least one prompt, and adjust a configurable parameter of the external medical device based on the at least one prompt and the response.

[0014] In the external medical device, the one or more indicators may include one or more indicators of cardiac function, respiratory function, and vocal function. The configurable parameter may define a course of treatment executed by the external medical device to treat the potential health condition. The potential health condition may include at least one of ventricular tachycardia, ventricular fibrillation, bradycardia, and asystole.

[0015] In some examples a system is provided. The system includes a computer system including a memory and circuitry, in communication with the memory, to provide a user interface including a set of selectable prompts directed to a condition of an external medical device, each selectable prompt of the set of selectable prompts corresponding to text articulating the selectable prompt; receive input selecting at least one prompt from the set of selectable prompts to include in a training message directed to the condition; and transmit the training message to the external medical device. The system also includes the external medical device. The external medical device includes a memory and circuitry, in communication with the memory, to receive the training message, convert the text corresponding to the at least one prompt to at least one natural language representation of the at least one prompt, and output the at least one natural language representation. In the system, the condition may include a low battery and the at least one prompt may include a request to change the battery.

[0016] It is appreciated that various examples described herein provide a host of advantages over conventional technology. These advantages include clinical flexibility, the ability to upgrade devices "on the fly" (e.g., without requiring physical access to the device by technicians), and the ability to rapidly deploy devices to new markets (e.g., without requiring loading of different audio files, which may consume substantial storage).

[0017] Still other aspects and advantages of the examples disclosed herein are discussed in detail below. Moreover, it is to be understood that both the foregoing information and the following detailed description are merely illustrative examples of various aspects, and are intended to provide an overview or framework for understanding the nature and character of the claimed subject matter. Any example disclosed herein may be combined with any other example. References to "an example," "some examples," "an alternate example," "various examples," "one example," "at least one example," "this and other examples" or the like are not necessarily mutually exclusive and are intended to indicate that a particular feature, structure, or characteristic described in connection with the example may be included in at least one example. The appearances of such terms herein are not necessarily all referring to the same example.

[0018] Furthermore, in the event of inconsistent usages of terms between this document and documents incorporated herein by reference, the term usage in the incorporated references is supplementary to that of this document; for irreconcilable inconsistencies, the term usage in this document controls. In addition, the accompanying drawings are included to provide illustration and a further understanding of the various aspects and examples, and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification. The drawings, together with the remainder of the specification, serve to explain principles and operations of the described and claimed aspects and examples.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0019] The accompanying drawings are not intended to be drawn to scale. In the drawings, components that are identical or nearly identical may be represented by a like numeral. For purposes of clarity, not every component is labeled in every drawing. In the drawings:

[0020] FIG. **1** is a functional schematic one example of an external medical device controller;

[0021] FIGS. **2**A-B are illustrations of one example of an external medical device controller for an external medical device;

[0022] FIG. **3** is an illustration of one example of an external medical device;

[0023] FIG. **4** is an illustration of one example of an external medical device;

[0024] FIG. **5** is a block diagram of one example of a distributed prompting system;

[0025] FIG. **6** is a block diagram of one example of a distributed computing system;

[0026] FIG. **7** is an illustration of one example of a health survey configuration screen;

[0027] FIG. **8** is an illustration of one example of a health survey results screen;

[0028] FIG. **9** is an illustration of one example of health survey results screen; and

[0029] FIG. **10** is a flow diagram of one example of a prompting process.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0030] Medical devices in accord with various examples disclosed herein use natural language to interact with external entities, such as patients being monitored by the medical devices, other users of the medical devices such as health care professionals and patient service representatives, and third parties, such as bystanders. For instance, according to some examples, an external medical device includes a natural language processing component configured to read information descriptive of one or more prompts and articulate the one or more prompts in a natural language, such as through audio output or visual gestures (e.g., sign language). In some examples, the natural language processing component is also configured to detect responses in a natural language, e.g., spoken audio, and convert the natural language into encoded data, such as human-readable text, for storage and further processing. Further, in some examples, the natural language processing component is configured to analyze the responses, address the responses by, for example, altering the operation of the external medical device, and report responses to the prompts. In various examples, prompts may be defined by a user of the system and, accordingly, include custom prompts.

[0031] Some examples use this natural language processing capability to enhance patient care. For instance, according one example, a medical device is configured to receive information descriptive of a health survey customized for one or more target patients. This health survey information may identify one or more prompts for information specifically selected for the one or more target patients. In some examples, the medical device is configured execute the health survey by issuing the one or more identified prompts and recording any responses received to the prompts.

[0032] In some examples, the medical device is configured to analyze the responses and identify whether any of the responses should be addressed. In these examples, the medical device is further configured to address the responses according to custom prompt information stored in the medical device. For example, if a response indicates that the patient requires assistance, the medical device may contact an external entity identified in the custom prompt information to request assistance on behalf of the patient.

[0033] In some examples, the medical device is configured to receive information descriptive of one or more instructions or more comprehensive training (e.g., comprising a set of instructions as a self-contained training module) customized for one or more target recipients. This training information may identify one or more prompts for information or action specifically selected for the one or more target recipients. For example, the training information may be directed to an

activity associated with the medical device that a patient is having difficulty in performing. In some examples, the medical device is configured to provide the instructions or training by issuing the one or more identified prompts through natural language output, such as audio output.

[0034] For example, any of the medical devices disclosed herein may be non-invasive or ambulatory. As used herein, the term non-invasive is in contrast to invasive devices, such as implantable medical devices. For example, non-invasive medical devices disclosed herein can include wearable medical devices. The term ambulatory means that the device is capable of and designed for moving with the patient.

[0035] The examples of the methods and apparatuses discussed herein are not limited in application to the details of construction and the arrangement of components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the accompanying drawings. The methods and apparatuses are capable of implementation in other examples and of being practiced or of being carried out in various ways. Examples of specific implementations are provided herein for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to be limiting. In particular, acts, elements and features discussed in connection with any one or more examples are not intended to be excluded from a similar role in any other examples.

[0036] Also, the phraseology and terminology used herein is for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting. Any references to examples or elements or acts of the systems and methods herein referred to in the singular may also embrace examples including a plurality of these elements, and any references in plural to any example or element or act herein may also embrace examples including only a single element. References in the singular or plural form are not intended to limit the presently disclosed systems or methods, their components, acts, or elements. The use herein of "including," "comprising," "having," "containing," "involving," and variations thereof is meant to encompass the items listed thereafter and equivalents thereof as well as additional items. References to "or" may be construed as inclusive so that any terms described using "or" may indicate any of a single, more than one, and all of the described terms.

Example Medical Device Controller

[0037] Various examples disclosed herein use natural language processing to communicate prompts in a natural language and receive verbal and/or non-verbal responses through textual input (e.g., user selects one or more predefined responses or types in a response via a user interface) or natural language input (e.g., user speaks desired response or speaks selection of one or more predefined responses). Target recipients for these prompts may include patients being monitored by the external medical device, care givers for the patient, or third party bystanders, among others. FIG. **1** illustrates an external medical device controller **102** in accord with some examples. The external medical device controller **102** may be included in any of a variety of external medical devices including defibrillators, monitors, CPR systems, pacing devices, and other medical devices. More specific examples of medical devices including a controller in accord with the external medical device controller **102** are described further below with reference to FIGS. **3-5**. In these examples, the external medical device controller **102** is configured for use in a wearable defibrillator or an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

[0038] As shown in FIG. **1**, the external medical device controller **102** includes at least one processor **118**, a sensor interface **114**, a natural language processing component **112**, a therapy delivery interface **116**, data storage **104**, a network interface **106**, a user interface **108**, and a battery **110**. The processor **118** can be implemented using a variety of commercially available processors or other circuitry. Specific examples of the processor **118** are described further below. The data storage **104** includes custom prompt data **120**. The sensor interface **114** can include an acoustic signal processing component, an electrode signal processing component, and motion signal processing component, among other signal processing components. In some implementations, components such as natural language processing component **112** and sensor interface **114** can be at least partially implemented within the processor **118**. In some implementations, the components can be implemented in circuitry that is separate from processor **118**. For example, in one example

the natural language processing component **112** includes voice circuitry in communication with a memory of the controller **102** and configured to perform the one or more processes as described herein. As referred to herein, "circuitry" may include controllers, processors, transistors, integrated circuits, microprocessors, and the like. As such, some forms of circuitry can be configured by various software components to execute particular features and functions. As discussed further below, these software components may be stored in the data storage **104** or in an on-board storage element in processor **118**.

[0039] In some examples in accord with FIG. **1**, the battery **110** may be a rechargeable 3 cell 2200 mAh lithium ion battery pack that provides electrical power to the other device components with at least 24 hour runtime between charges. It is appreciated that the battery capacity, runtime, and type (e.g., lithium ion, nickel-cadmium, or nickel-metal hydride) may be changed to best fit the specific application of the medical device controller **102**.

[0040] According to the example illustrated in FIG. **1**, the processor **118** can be coupled to and in data communication with one or more of the sensor interface **114**, the therapy delivery interface **116**, the data storage **104**, the network interface **106**, and the user interface **108**. In some examples, the processor **118** performs a series of instructions that result in manipulated data which are stored in and retrieved from the data storage **104**. According to a variety of examples, the processor **118** is a commercially available processor such as a processor manufactured by Texas Instruments, Intel, AMD, Sun, IBM, Motorola, Freescale, and ARM Holdings. However, the processor **118** may be any type of processor, multiprocessor or controller, whether commercially available or specially manufactured. For instance, according to one example, the processor **118** may include a power conserving processor arrangement as described in U.S. Pat. No. 8,904,214, titled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONSERVING POWER IN A MEDICAL DEVICE, issued Dec. 2, 2014, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. In one example, the processor **118** is an Intel® PXA270.

[0041] In addition, in several examples, the processor **118** is configured to execute a conventional operating system. The operating system may provide platform services to application software, such as some examples of the natural language processing component **112** which is discussed further below. These platform services may include inter-process and network communication, file system management and standard database manipulation. One or more of many operating systems may be used, and examples are not limited to any particular operating system or operating system characteristic. For instance, in some examples, the processor **118** may be configured to execute a real-time operating system (RTOS), such as RTLinux, or a non-real time operating system, such as BSD or GNU/Linux.

[0042] In various examples, the sensor interface **114** is configured to couple to and receive acoustic signals from an acoustic sensor. Similarly, the sensor interface **114** may be configured to couple to and receive electrode signals from one or more electrodes. These electrodes may comprise any of a variety of commercially available electrodes, some examples of which are described further below. As illustrated in FIG. **1**, in some examples, the natural language processing component **112** can be coupled with and receive processed acoustic data from the sensor interface **114** via the processor **118**. Similarly, the natural language processing component **112** may be coupled with and receive response data from the user interface **108** or the sensor interface **114** via the processor **118**. In various examples, the response data is descriptive of verbal responses to one or more communicated prompts.

Natural Language Processing Component

[0043] According to one example illustrated by FIG. **1**, the natural language processing component **112** is configured to receive an identifier of text or other encoded data specifying at least one prompt to be communicated to a patient monitored by the external medical device. As discussed in more detail below, the natural language processing component **112** may perform a natural language generation process to convert the received data to a prompt or an instruction. For example, prompts

can take the form of questions in a health survey, instruction and training messages, or device maintenance-related topics. In various examples, the natural language processing component **112** is configured to generate an output conveying at least one prompt to the user (e.g., a patient), and receive a response to the at least one prompt. For example, as described in detail below, the output prompt may be a spoken question in a language of the user, and the user's response may be received via a microphone assembly in the user interface **108** and processed by the natural language processing component **112**. In one example, the prompt can be communicated to the patient during a predetermined target time period or a default time period. The time period may be configured in the form of a single discrete time or a time range, and may include non-reoccurring or reoccurring time periods.

[0044] In one example, the external medical device controller **102** is configured to determine the time period for delivering the health survey based on an operating mode of an associated external medical device. The device may include one or more predetermined operating modes, such as a health survey mode. In various examples, each of the one or more operating modes controls the behavior of the device its operation. Modes may be activated by default or through user interaction with the user interface **108** that causes the user interface **108** to store a value in a configurable parameter that defines the operating mode. For example, in one implementation the external medical device controller **102** is configured to determine that the operating mode of the device is presently the health survey mode by referencing the value of the configurable parameter and to cause the health survey to be automatically performed during the health survey mode. As described above, this can include automatically communicating a prompt at a determined target time period (e.g., as soon as possible).

[0045] Similarly, in some examples, the external medical device controller **102** includes additional modes in which the natural language processing component **112** interacts with users. For instance, in some examples the external medical device controller **102** implements a maintenance mode in which the external medical device controller **102** issues prompts to the user to aid the user in performing maintenance functions such as battery replacement, component assembly, garment care, and the like. Moreover, in some examples, the external medical device controller **102** implements a training mode in which the external medical device controller **102** issues prompts to the user to train the user on how to operate the external medical device in which the external medical device controller **102** is housed.

[0046] The natural language processing component **112** may also perform natural language understanding to convert the user's response to a binary representation of a human readable symbol, such as text, for, e.g., storage and later retrieval. In various other examples, the natural language component **112** is configured to receive a transmission including custom prompt data specifying at least one message and convert the data to an audio representation of the at least one message. For example, a doctor may customize one or more prompts based on a patient's underlying condition. The doctor may customize prompts by, e.g., speaking his/her questions into the device microphone. The doctor may be given audio or visual feedback regarding the spoken question, e.g., human readable text rendering of the question can be displayed to the doctor, or alternatively the doctor's recorded question may be played back to him. The doctor may then accept or reject the recording.

[0047] In various examples, the audio output, or audio representation, may be output by the user interface **108** and communicated to the patient monitored by the external medical device. Processes performed by the natural language processing component **112** are described in detail below with reference to FIG. **10**.

[0048] In various examples, the natural language processing component **112** is configured to modify and adjust prompts based on language based parameters, location information associated with an external medical device, or the response received to at least one prompt. Language based parameters may indicate primary language, dialect, spoken word, sign language, gender of voice, speed of diction, accent, and vocabulary/word choice. Language based parameters may be received

from a user of the external medical controller **102**, such as the patient, through one or more interfaces such as the user interface **108**. Accordingly, in one or more examples, the external medical device controller **102** includes a configurable parameter storing a value that specifies a one or more languages in which the external medical device controller **102** communicates. By setting this configurable parameter to one or more predefined values, a user may manually select one or more languages through which the external medical device controller **102** communicates prompts

[0049] Location information may include information descriptive of a geographic location, such as an address, a state, a country, etc. In one example, location information may be received through antennas integrated with or coupled to the network interface **106**, and consequently coupled to the processor **118**. For example, the one or more antennas may receive GPS signals from satellites. In various examples, the natural language processing component **112** can also determine language based parameters from a response to the prompt. For example, the natural language processing component **112** may perform natural language understanding to determine that the response to a prompt is in a particular dialect. In further examples, the natural language processing component **112** may determine a natural language associated with a location identified by received GPS signals. Accordingly, various examples of the natural language processing component **112** modify and adjust prompts to accommodate a particular patient. In various examples, this includes translating a prompt to a language that the patient has spoken or is known to understand. While in some examples this may include spoken language, in further examples this may include non-spoken languages, such as sign language. While discussed herein in the context of a single verbal or non-verbal language, various examples of the controller **102** may communicate, modify, and adjust prompts in a plurality of natural languages. For example, responsive to receiving a GPS signal, the controller **102** can determine that more than one natural language is associated with the location corresponding to the GPS signal. Accordingly, prompts can be tailored to each language associated with the particular location. For example, several translations of a single prompt may be communicated. Furthermore, prompts may be communicated in both verbal and non-verbal languages (e.g., English and American sign language or ASL).

[0050] According to one example illustrated by FIG. **1**, the natural language processing component **112** may be further configured to detect the rhyme, meter, pitch, or pace of expression, or respiration of the patient to aid in determining the patient's status. The natural language processing component **112** may include circuitry configured to detect speech or respiration exhibited in patient responses and to identify a condition based on a comparison of the detected speech or respiration and a benchmark. In one example, the circuitry is coupled with and receives response data from the user interface **108** via the processor **118**. In this example, the circuitry measures and compares an envelope of received response data to a benchmark specifying characteristics of breathing or speech (e.g., breath rate, volume patterns, etc.) associated with a particular health condition. In some examples, the circuitry may further compare processed acoustic data and processed electrode data to benchmarks to identify the presence or absence of particular health conditions. Identified breathing or speech may additionally be tracked to determine trends in patient's speech or respiration. Detecting and evaluating breathing or speech patterns, permits the natural language processing component **112** to diagnose and track health conditions such as congestive heart failure, or other symptoms associated with cardiac dysfunction. In some examples, the medical device controller **102** can adjust a device parameter in response to the detected speech and/or respiration patterns (e.g., audible labored breathing) of the patient. For example, in addressing a patient's response to a custom prompt, the medical device controller **102** may detect one or more speech and/or respiration patterns that indicate an underlying health condition and alter a course of treatment or perform some other action. For example, the controller **102** may delay or expedite the administration of pacing pulses and/or defibrillation treatment, adjust a configurable operational parameter of the external medical device, prompt a third party to take action via a natural language prompt such as requesting emergency back-up, and/or report the event and information regarding

the patient, such as location, identity, and vital signs).

[0051] For example, if the patient is experiencing labored breathing during an activity (e.g., a device-guided six-minute walk test), the controller **102** can use one or more detected speech patterns to suggest to the patient, caregiver, or other user, that the patient should slow down or stop the activity. In some implementations, the controller **102** can combine the detected speech patterns with other sensed information (e.g., using the acoustic signal processing component in sensor interface **114**) and determine an appropriate course of action based on the combination of the detected speech patterns and other sensed information. For example, the controller **102** may determine that the patient's breathing is labored through one or more speech patterns in the patient's response to a prompt and, if lung sounds detected by acoustic signal processing component confirm the determination, the controller **102** may advice the patient to stop performing the activity. In other examples, a heart rate detector may provide additional correlating information, e.g., detecting if patient's heart rate exceeds a threshold (such as 150 bpm).

[0052] The natural language processing component **112** may be implemented using hardware or a combination of hardware and software. For instance, in one example, the natural language processing component **112** is implemented as a software component that is executed by the processor **118**. In this example, the instructions included in the natural language processing component **112** program the processor to derive meaning from human (natural) language, such as text or a response to a prompt. For instance, this may include converting a computer based representation into a natural language representation (i.e., natural language generation) or converting received natural language into a computer based representation (i.e., natural language understanding). In various examples the natural language processing component **112** includes a lexicon of language, a parser, and grammar rules. Additionally, the natural language processing component **112** may reference a semantic theory to guide natural language understanding processes executed by the natural language processing component **112**. In various examples, a semantic theory characterizes a sentence based on its structure and context.

[0053] During natural language understanding, the natural language processing component **112** first executes a process of decomposing the response into phonemes. This may be performed by the parser. Phonemes include any of the units of sound in a language that distinguish one word from another. For example, the English language has roughly 40 phonemes. Each phoneme is then identified in the lexicon of language and assessed according to the grammar rules and semantic theory. Accordingly, phonemes are matched to spoken words based on the particular rules and theory. Alternatively, the natural language processing component **112** can be configured to perform statistical modeling using probability and mathematical functions to determine the most likely match between phonemes and words. For example, this may include the Hidden Markov Model or neural networks. Statistical modeling accommodates for accents, dialects, and mannerisms that may change between users. Responsive to the matching phonemes to spoken words, the sentence may be reconstructed in a computer based representation.

[0054] In contrast, during natural language generation phonemes are assigned to text. In various examples the natural language processing component **112** includes a store of voice references including all of the phonemes and voice references for a given language. Initially, the text next goes through a process of tokenization. This process divides the text into basic language units such as words or morphemes. This may be performed by the parser, for example. A morpheme is the smallest grammatical unit of a language. Divisions are generally made using separators such as punctuation marks and spaces in the text. The natural language processing component **112** then performs one or more processes that assign a phonetic transcription to the text to reconstruct each word. This process may be referred to as text-to-phoneme processing. Grammatical and syntactic analysis based on at least the grammar rules and semantic theory enables the natural language processing component to reconstruct the sentence and output an audio waveform.

[0055] As discussed above, various examples of the natural language processing component **112**

may perform speech synthesis processes that convert custom prompts in a text format to one or more verbal prompts (e.g., artificial speech). Accordingly, the natural language processing component **112** of one example can include a speech synthesizer, such as a text-to-speech converter that converts normal language text into speech. The text-to-speech converter generates synthesized speech by referencing a database of stored speech and linking together individual segments of recorded speech (e.g., phonemes) to construct words and sentences. In various implementations the text-to-speech converter is implemented in a hardware product. For example, the text-to-speech converter may include the Textspeak TTS-EM offered by TextSpeak of Westport, CT or the Epson SIV30120F01A100, offered by EPSON® of Long Beach, CA. In other examples, the text-to-speech converter is implemented in a software product. As described above with reference to the natural language processing component **112** of FIG. **1**, various examples of the text-to-speech converter convert the raw text (e.g., custom prompts) to the equivalent of written words (i.e, tokenization). Phonetic transcriptions are then assigned to each word (i.e., text-to-phoneme). The text-to-speech converter then divides the text into phrases, clauses, and sentences and converts the resulting sentence into sound (i.e., synthesization). Often this includes the computation of pitch contour and duration of particular phonemes in the resulting sentence.

[0056] In some examples, the natural language processing component **112** is configured to identify at least one response type of a response received and identify at least one address for a target recipient associated with the response type in a cross-reference stored in memory. The cross-reference may include associations between a response type and one or more addresses for one or more target recipients. The natural language processing component **112** may be configured to transmit at least one notification to the target recipient based on an identified address. These notifications may be communicated, for instance, via network interface **106**. In one example, the target recipient includes a device associated with a healthcare provider, care taker, or support personnel, and the notification includes a natural language representation of at least a name of a patient, a location of the patient, a condition of the patient, or the response. In a further example, the natural language processing component **112** may identify a priority from a cross-reference based on the response type, and transmit the associated notification with the priority identified.

[0057] As described above, the custom prompt data **120** includes identifiers of previously defined prompts, definitions of new prompts, identifiers of previously defined target events that trigger prompts, definitions of new target events that trigger prompts, identifiers of previously defined responses to be addressed, definitions of new responses to be addressed, identifiers of previously defined actions to be taken in addressing responses, and definitions of new actions to be taken in addressing responses. More particularly, according to the illustrated example, the custom prompt data **120** includes at least one prompt associated with a potential health condition of the patient. For example, the custom prompt data **120** may include a series of prompts, such as a survey of questions or periodic condition status questions which may include, for example: "Are your legs swelling?"; "Are you having breathing difficulties?"; "Have you experienced a gain in weight?"; and "Are you sitting up to sleep?". Additional survey questions that may be stored in custom prompt data **120** are discussed further below with reference to FIG. **5** and a listing of prompts **706**. Various other questions relating to symptoms of health conditions may also be used in addition to or in place of such survey questions.

[0058] The custom prompt data **120** may also include one or more cross-references configured by the custom prompt interface described further below. As used herein, cross-references may consist of a queryable association between one or more identifiers and include a look-up table, hierarchical database, relational database, object oriented database, or the like.

Diagnostic Information Communications

[0059] In addition to the examples discussed above, in various examples the natural language processing component **112** may cause the controller **102** to communicate one or more system diagnostics to the user or patient. Communication may be through one or more interfaces, such as

the user interface **108**. System diagnostics may include any message conveying a diagnosed error in the controller **102** or an associated external medical device. In one example, system diagnostics are communicated responsive to user selection of customer support indicator in the user interface **108**. Accordingly, when communication between the external medical device controller **102** and a healthcare provider system is compromised, (e.g., network interface **106** is unable to communicate with the healthcare provider system) communication of the system diagnostics to the user permits the user to convey the diagnostics to the healthcare provider system or a user associated therewith. For example, the user may use a personal mobile device, such as a smart phone, to relay the diagnostics to the healthcare provider system or the associated user.

Example Implementations of Components

[0060] In other examples, the natural language processing component **112** may be an application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) that is coupled to the processor **118** and tailored to derive meaning from natural language. For example, the natural language processing component **112** may include circuitry to render one or more prompts as audio prompts via the user interface **108**. Thus, examples of the natural language processing component **112** are not limited to a particular hardware or software implementation.

[0061] In some examples, the components disclosed herein, such as the natural language processing component **112**, may read parameters that affect the functions performed by the components. These parameters may be physically stored in any form of suitable memory including volatile memory, such as RAM, or nonvolatile memory, such as a flash memory or magnetic hard drive. In addition, the parameters may be logically stored in a propriety data structure, such as a database or file defined by a user mode application, or in a commonly shared data structure, such as an application registry that is defined by an operating system. In addition, some examples provide for both system and user interfaces that allow external entities to modify the parameters and thereby configure the behavior of the components.

[0062] The data storage **104** includes a computer readable and writeable nonvolatile data storage medium configured to store non-transitory instructions and data. In addition, the data storage **104** includes processor memory that stores data during operation of the processor **118**. In some examples, the processor memory includes a relatively high performance, volatile, random access memory such as dynamic random access memory (DRAM), static memory (SRAM) or synchronous DRAM. However, the processor memory may include any device for storing data, such as a non-volatile memory, with sufficient throughput and storage capacity to support the functions described herein. According to several examples, the processor **118** causes data to be read from the nonvolatile data storage medium into the processor memory prior to processing the data. In these examples, the processor **118** copies the data from the processor memory to the non-volatile storage medium after processing is complete. A variety of components may manage data movement between the non-volatile storage medium and the processor memory and examples are not limited to particular data management components. Further, examples are not limited to a particular memory, memory system, or data storage system.

[0063] The instructions stored on the data storage **104** may include executable programs or other code that can be executed by the processor **118**. The instructions may be persistently stored as encoded signals, and the instructions may cause the processor **118** to perform the functions described herein. The data storage **104** also may include information that is recorded, on or in, the medium, and this information may be processed by the processor **118** during execution of instructions. The medium may, for example, be optical disk, magnetic disk or flash memory, among others, and may be permanently affixed to, or removable from, the medical device controller **102**.

[0064] The data storage **104** may also include sensor data such as such as ECG signal data, interpretations of the ECG signal data (e.g., heartbeats), analog heart sounds, analog breath sounds, analog motion data, acoustic signals, electrode signals, motion signals, processed motion data, processed acoustic data, and processed electrode data. Sensor data may be analyzed by one or more

system components to detect the occurrence of a medical condition, such as a cardiac arrhythmia.

[0065] As illustrated in FIG. **1**, the natural language processing component **112** and the custom prompt data **120** are separate components. However, in some examples, the natural language processing component **112** and the custom prompt data **120** may be combined into a single component or re-organized so that a portion of the data included in the natural language processing component **112**, such as executable code, resides in the custom prompt data **120**, or vice versa. Such variations in these and the other components illustrated in FIG. **1** are intended to be within the scope of the examples disclosed herein.

[0066] The custom prompt data **120** may be stored in any logical construction capable of storing information on a computer readable medium including, among other structures, flat files, indexed files, hierarchical databases, relational databases or object oriented databases. These data structures may be specifically configured to conserve storage space or increase data exchange performance. In addition, various examples organize the custom prompt data **120** into particularized and, in some cases, unique structures to perform the functions disclosed herein. In these examples, the data structures are sized and arranged to store values for particular types of data, such as integers, floating point numbers, character strings, arrays, linked lists, and the like.

[0067] As shown in FIG. **1**, the external medical device controller **102** includes several system interface components **106**, **114**, and **116**. Each of these system interface components is configured to exchange (i.e. send or receive) data with one or more specialized devices that may be located within the housing of the medical device controller **102** or elsewhere. The components used by the interfaces **106**, **114**, and **116** may include hardware components, software components, or a combination of both. Within each interface, these components physically and logically couple the medical device controller **102** to the specialized devices. This physical and logical coupling enables the medical device controller **102** to communicate with and, in some examples, power or control the operation of the specialized devices. These specialized devices may include physiological sensors, therapy delivery devices, and computer networking devices.

[0068] According to various examples, the hardware and software components of the interfaces **106**, **114**, and **116** implement a variety of coupling and communication techniques. In some examples, the interfaces **106**, **114**, and **116** use leads, cables or other wired connectors as conduits to exchange data between the medical device controller **102** and specialized devices. In some examples, the interfaces **106**, **114**, and **116** communicate with specialized devices using wireless technologies such as radio frequency, infrared technology, and body area network (BAN) technology. The software components included in the interfaces **106**, **114**, and **116** enable the processor **118** to communicate with specialized devices. These software components may include elements such as objects, executable code, and populated data structures. Together, these software components provide software interfaces through which the processor **118** can exchange information with specialized devices. Moreover, in at least some examples where one or more specialized devices communicate using analog signals, the interfaces **106**, **114**, and **116** further include components configured to convert analog information into digital information, and vice versa, to enable the processor **118** to communicate with specialized devices.

[0069] As discussed above, the system interface components **106**, **114**, and **116** shown in FIG. **1** support different types of specialized devices. For instance, the components of the sensor interface **114** couple the processor **118** to one or more physiological sensors such as a body temperature sensors, respiration monitors, and ECG sensing electrodes, one or more environmental sensors such as atmospheric thermometers, airflow sensors, video sensors, audio sensors, accelerometers, GPS locators, and hygrometers. In these examples, the sensors may include sensors with a relatively low sampling rate, such as wireless sensors.

[0070] The components of the therapy delivery interface **116** couple one or more therapy delivery devices, such as capacitors, defibrillator electrode assemblies, pacing electrode assemblies, or mechanical chest compression devices, to the processor **118**. It is appreciated that the functionality

of the therapy delivery interface **116** may be incorporated into the sensor interface **114** to form a single interface coupled to the processor **118**.

[0071] The components of the network interface **106** couple the processor **118** to a computer network via a networking device, such as a bridge, router or hub. According to a variety of examples, the network interface **106** supports a variety of standards and protocols, examples of which include USB (via, for example, a dongle to a computer), TCP/IP, Ethernet, Wireless Ethernet, Bluetooth®, ZigBee, M-Bus, CAN-bus, IP, IPV6, UDP, DTN, HTTP, FTP, SNMP, CDMA, NMEA and GSM. It is appreciated that the network interface **106** of external medical device controller **102** may enable communication between other medical device controllers within a certain range.

[0072] To ensure data transfer is secure, in some examples, the external medical device controller **102** can transmit data via the network interface **106** using a variety of security measures including, for example, TLS, SSL, or VPN. In some examples, the network interface **106** includes both a physical interface configured for wireless communication and a physical interface configured for wired communication. According to various examples, the network interface **106** enables communication between the external medical device controller **102** and a variety of personal electronic devices including, for example, computer enabled glasses, watches, and earpieces. In these examples, the network interface **106** may connect to and communicate through a body area network.

[0073] In one example, the network interface **106** is also capable of transmitting or receiving information to assist in medical device location determination. This may be accomplished through one or more antennas integrated with or coupled to the network interface **106**, and consequently coupled to the processor **118**. For example, the one or more antennas may receive GPS signals from satellites. The GPS signals may be used to determine the location of the medical device with a given level of accuracy or used to determine the current time.

[0074] Thus, the various system interfaces incorporated in the medical device controller **102** allow the device to interoperate with a wide variety of devices in various contexts. For instance, some examples of the medical device controller **102** are configured to perform a process of sending critical events and data to a centralized server via the network interface **106**. An illustration of a process in accord with these examples is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 6,681,003, titled "DATA COLLECTION AND SYSTEM MANAGEMENT FOR SUBJECT-WORN MEDICAL DEVICES," issued on Jan. 20, 2004 which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

[0075] As illustrated in FIG. **1**, the therapy delivery interface **116** and the network interface **106** are optional and may not be included in every example. For instance, a heart rate monitor may employ the medical device controller **102** to issue alarms but may not include a therapy delivery interface **116** to treat cardiac abnormalities. Similarly, an ambulatory defibrillator may include the medical device controller **102** to provide defibrillation functionality but may not include a network interface **106** where, for example, the ambulatory defibrillator is designed to rely on the user interface **108** to announce alarms.

Example User Interface Implementation

[0076] The user interface **108** shown in FIG. **1** includes a combination of hardware and software components that allow the medical device controller **102** to communicate with an external entity, such as a patient or other user. These components may be configured to receive information from actions such as physical movement, verbal intonation, or thought processes. In addition, the components of the user interface **108** can provide information to external entities. Examples of the components that may be employed within the user interface **108** include keyboards, mouse devices, trackballs, microphones, electrodes, touch screens, printing devices, display screens, and speakers. As discussed above, in one example, providing information to external entities includes displaying, communicating, or otherwise conveying a prompt to a patient. In one setting, this may include displaying sign language, such as American Sign Language (ASL), via the user interface **108**. In

some examples, the electrodes include an illuminating element, such as an LED. In some examples, the printing devices include printers capable of rendering visual or tactile (Braille) output. In one example, the user interface **108** incorporates a Braille mobile device, such as the LevelStar® Braille tablet commercially available from LevelStar LLC of Louisville, Colorado.

[0077] In some examples, the user interface **108** is configured to provide a custom prompt interface thorough which the medical device controller **102** receives custom prompt data. This custom prompt data may include: identifiers of previously defined prompts, definitions of new prompts, identifiers of previously defined target events that trigger prompts, definitions of new target events that trigger prompts, identifiers of previously defined responses to be addressed, definitions of new responses to be addressed, identifiers of previously defined actions to be taken in addressing responses, and definitions of new actions to be taken in addressing responses. In one example, information descriptive of target events may further include data descriptive of a target time period.

[0078] In one example, the custom prompt interface may be used by an authorized person, such as a health care professional treating a patient via an external medical device, to seek additional information from the patient via the external medical device. The additional information sought by the authorized person may include answers to direct, natural language questions, as may be presented in a health survey as discussed above. In some examples, the custom prompt interface may be used by an authorized person, such as a support technician, to provide natural language based instructions and training to a patient or a third party via the external medical device.

[0079] To initiate data collection or information distribution via the external medical device, the authorized person may access the custom prompt interface via the user interface **108**. The custom prompt interface may employ a variety of metaphors and user interface elements. In one example, the custom prompt interface is rendered via the user interface **108** and exchanges information descriptive of instructions to alter custom prompt data stored on the external medical device. In response to receiving input requesting a change to the custom prompt data of the external medical device, the custom prompt interface processes the input and stores changes to the custom prompt data in a data store of the external medical device. Examples of user interface elements provided by the custom prompt interface are described further below with reference to FIGS. **7-9**. Additional examples of processes executed by the custom prompt interface are described further below with reference to FIG. **10**.

[0080] Other examples may include a variety of features not shown in FIG. **1**. For instance, some examples may integrate an accelerometer/acoustic sensor and an electrode into a single assembly. In other examples, the accelerometer/acoustic sensor is integrated within a therapy electrode assembly. One such arrangement is described further in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/314,799, titled "THERAPEUTIC DEVICE INCLUDING ACOUSTIC SENSOR," filed Jun. 25, 2014, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. In other examples, the accelerometer/acoustic sensor is integrated within a garment such as the garment described further below with reference to FIG. **3**. For instance, the accelerometer/acoustic sensor may be integrated within a belt, vest, or harness, such as the harness **310** or the belt **350**. Thus the examples disclosed herein are not limited to a particular number or arrangement of accelerometer/acoustic sensors or electrodes.

Automated Speech Recognition (ASR)

[0081] In some implementations, the external medical device can include a voice recognition engine for detecting a voice of a user (e.g., patient, physician, PSR, or other human entity) and automatically adapting a corresponding output based on the recognition. For example, using automated speech recognition (ASR), a patient's verbal response to health survey questions can be recorded. In some examples, an original voice model can be adapted to individual dictators to improve an accuracy of the voice recognition engine. For example, in such applications, an ASR process can include an initial training/adaptation phase. In the training/adaptation phase, the engine can be adjusted to detect nuances in a speech spectrum based on different kinds of parameters, such

as: the speaker's pitch, tone, etc., (e.g., certain speech features can be extracted using cepstral and spectral domain analysis), differentiation of male and female voices, languages, utterance speeds, accents, and/or dialects. In some examples, the training can also account for a type of microphone and processing engine used, and an ambience or environmental conditions, including, different kinds of noise inputs along with the speaker's audio. In some examples, a process of adaptation to train the speaker's input for better ASR efficiency/accuracy can be performed online (e.g., based on incremental input) or offline (e.g., based on recorded audio batches as input). An online process can include an adaptation process that occurs as and when the speaker is providing inputs into the ASR engine for recognition. In this example, the engine can learn and adapt to the user's speech as more inputs and more words of the speaker's audio are being recognized. An offline process can include adaptation and/or training the ASR engine's models with a set of the speaker's audio corpora (typically as a batch audio) even before the user starts using the engine for recognition or transcription.

[0082] For example, in the context of a wearable ambulatory device, the offline adaptation can consist of a training/adaptation mode where the user is asked to speak some of the regularly used words by the speaker during the training. For instance, it may be known in advance that a patient may provide certain utterances in responding a health survey questions, such as "Yes," "No," or "Maybe," or in the context of describing physical feelings, "I am feeling fine," "I am feeling faint," "I feel tired," "My legs hurt." The patient may also be asked to speak certain words and/or phrases that can be used during a training or maintenance mode of the device. For example, the patient may state "I can hear the chime now," or "I cannot feel the vibration." Similarly, a physician specialized in a certain practice, such as cardiology, can be required to speak certain words and/or phrases that he or she is likely to use in customizing, e.g., a health survey. For example, the physician may also be required to speak certain medical terms such as "arrhythmia" or "cardiac arrest." In this manner, the ASR process can be trained for the specific contexts and environments of use.

[0083] In some implementations, another factor that can be used to improve an acoustic model may be based on supervised or unsupervised adaptation. In the case of supervised adaptation, there can be an existing baseline transcript based on how the acoustic models are trained. In unsupervised adaptation, there may be no transcript and usually the more new words are spoken, the better the adaptation for the acoustic models. In unsupervised adaptation, spoken words can be aligned with a baseline model and use the transcribed words for adaptation. Those skilled in the art will understand that, in some examples, a confidence measure can be used to learn whether certain transcribed words may be used for adaptation or not. For example, Hidden Markov Model-based recognition engines may use an unsupervised or a mixture of supervised/unsupervised schemes to perform adaptation.

[0084] In some examples, an audio input of a predetermined length may be used to perform the training. For example, the audio duration may comprise in a range of 1-30 minutes of audio input. Persons of ordinary skill can understand that additional processes may be performed on the ASR process to improve quality, including compression, filtering, or other signal processing algorithms.

[0085] In some examples, the medical device controller 102 is incorporated into a unitary housing. FIGS. 2A-B illustrate such an example of the medical device controller 102. As shown in FIGS. 2A-B, the medical device controller 102 includes two response buttons 210 on opposing sides of the housing. The response buttons 210 are recessed to reduce the likelihood of accidental activation (e.g., a patient falling on the response button). The medical device controller 102 also includes, in this example, a display screen 220 and a speaker to enable the communication of audible and visual stimuli to the patient. It is appreciated that the response buttons 210 do not have to be placed on opposing sides of the housing as illustrated in FIGS. 2A-B. The response buttons, for example, may be located adjacent to each other in the housing the medical device controller 102. The adjacent placement of the response buttons may make it easier for individuals with smaller hands or less dexterity to engage the response buttons.

Example Ambulatory Medical Device

[0086] In some examples, the external medical device controller **102** described above with reference to FIG. **1** is included in a wearable defibrillator comprising a garment (e.g., a vest or belt) that is worn by the patient. FIG. **3** illustrates a wearable defibrillator **300** in accord with these examples. In at least one example, the wearable defibrillator **300** may be a Life Vest® wearable cardioverter defibrillator available from ZOLL Medical Corporation of Chelmsford, Massachusetts. The wearable defibrillator **300** monitors the patient's ECG with sensing electrodes, monitors the patient heart sounds with acoustic sensors, detects life-threatening arrhythmias, records events of interest, and delivers therapy in the form of one or more pacing pulses or a defibrillating shock through the therapy electrodes if treatment is necessary. As shown in FIG. **3**, the wearable defibrillator **300** includes a harness **310** having a pair of shoulder straps and a belt that is worn about the torso of a patient. The wearable defibrillator **300** includes a plurality of ECG sensing electrodes **320** that are attached to the harness **310** at various positions about the patient's body and electrically coupled to the sensor interface **114** of the medical device controller **102** via a connection pod **324**. The plurality of ECG sensing electrodes **320** are coupled to the medical device controller **102** to monitor the cardiac function of the patient and generally include an anterior/posterior pair of ECG sensing electrodes and a side/side pair of ECG sensing electrodes. The plurality of ECG sensing electrodes **320** may incorporate any electrode system, including conventional stick-on adhesive electrodes, dry-sensing capacitive ECG electrodes, radio transparent electrodes, segmented electrodes, or one or more long term wear electrodes that are configured to be continuously worn by a patient for extended periods (e.g., 3 or more days). One example of such a long term wear electrode is described in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2013/0325096, titled "LONG TERM WEAR MULTIFUNCTION BIOMEDICAL ELECTRODE," published Dec. 5, 2013, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. Additional ECG sensing electrodes may be provided, and the plurality of ECG sensing electrodes **320** may be disposed at various locations about the patient's body.

[0087] The wearable defibrillator **300** also includes one or more accelerometer/acoustic sensors **322** that are attached to a belt **350** of the harness **310** at various positions about the patient's body and electrically coupled to the sensor interface **114** of the medical device controller **102** via the connection pod **324**. The one or more accelerometer/acoustic sensors **322** are coupled to the medical device controller **102** to monitor the cardiopulmonary function of the patient and generally positioned on the surface of a patient's body in the precordial area.

[0088] Although not shown is FIG. **3**, the wearable defibrillator **300** may include additional sensors, other than the plurality of ECG sensing electrodes **320**, capable of monitoring the physiological condition or activity of the patient. For example, sensors capable of measuring blood pressure (via, for example, video blood pressure detection), heart rate, heart sounds, thoracic impedance, pulse oxygen level (via, for example, reflectance-based pulse oximetry to determine oxygen concentration), respiration rate, and the activity level of the patient may also be provided.

[0089] The wearable defibrillator **300** also includes a plurality of therapy electrodes **314** that are electrically coupled to the medical device controller **102** via the connection pod **324** and which are configured to deliver one or more therapeutic defibrillating shocks to the body of the patient, if it is determined that such treatment is warranted. Each therapy electrode of the plurality of therapy electrodes may be housed in a therapy electrode assembly that further includes conductive gel disposed within one or more reservoirs. Prior to delivering therapy, the therapy electrode assembly may dispense the conductive gel to improve conductivity between the therapy electrode and the body of the patient. The connection pod **324** electrically couples the plurality of ECG sensing electrodes **320** and the plurality of therapy electrodes **314** to the therapy delivery interface **116** of the medical device controller **102**, and may include electronic circuitry configured for this purpose. The connection pod **324** may also include other electronic circuitry, such as a motion sensor or accelerometer through which patient activity may be monitored.

[0090] As shown in FIG. **3**, the wearable defibrillator **300** also includes a user interface pod **340** that is electrically coupled to, or integrated in with, the user interface **108** of the medical device controller **102**. The user interface pod **340** can be attached to the patient's clothing or to the harness **310**, for example, via a clip (not shown) that is attached to a portion of the interface pod **340**. In some examples, the user interface pod **340** may simply be held in a person's hand. In some examples, the user interface pod **340** may communicate wirelessly with the user interface **108** of the medical device controller **102**, for example, using a Bluetooth®, Wireless USB, ZigBee, Wireless Ethernet, GSM, or other type of communication interface.

Example Automated Medical Device

[0091] In some examples, the external medical device controller **102** described above with reference to FIG. **1** is included in an automated external medical device (AED). AEDs are small portable defibrillators that are capable of monitoring cardiac rhythms, determining when a defibrillating shock is necessary, and administering the defibrillating shock either automatically, or under the control of a trained rescuer (e.g., an EMT or other medically trained personnel). The AED, in addition, may be configured to provide counseling to an operator as to how to perform cardiac resuscitation (CPR). FIG. **4** illustrates an AED **400**. The AED **400** may be, for example, an AED Plus® automated external defibrillator available from ZOLL Medical Corporation of Chelmsford, Massachusetts. As shown, the AED **400** includes the medical device controller **102** and an electrode assembly **402**.

[0092] The electrode assembly **402** includes one or more sensing electrodes (e.g., ECG sensors), one or more acoustic sensors **422**, one or more therapy electrodes **404** (e.g., defibrillation pads), a connector **406**, wiring **408** electrically coupling the connector **406** to the one or more sensing electrodes **420**, the one or more acoustic sensors, and the one or more therapy electrodes **404**. As shown in FIG. **4**, the connector is configured to couple the electrode assembly **402** to the medical device controller **102** and, more specifically, the one or more sensing electrodes **420** and the one or more acoustic sensors **422** to the sensor interface **114** and the one or more therapy electrodes to the therapy delivery interface **116**.

[0093] The medical device controller **102** of the AED **400** is configured to detect the cardiac rhythm of the patient using ECG and heart sounds data and provide pacing and defibrillating shocks to the patient as appropriate. This process is similar to the process described with regard to medical device controller **102** of the ambulatory medical device **300**. The user interface **108** of the AED **400** may include a variety of components configured to communicate with the operator including, but not limited to, a display screen, a speaker, and one or more buttons. In this example, the AED **400** includes a display screen to display notifications to an operator. The notifications may provide instructions to the operator regarding the proper administration of CPR to the patient. The notifications on the display may be accompanied by audible alarms from the speaker to further assist the operator in administering CPR to the patient.

[0094] In another example, the medical device controller **102** (and more particularly, the natural language processing component of FIG. **1**) of the AED is configured to use processed acoustic data to guide an operator through a CPR procedure. In this example, the natural language processing component **112** issues step by step instructions to the operator and analyzes processed electrode data, processed acoustic data, and processed motion data representative of heart sounds, breath sounds, and physical movement (e.g., chest compressions) to validate performance of each step by the operator. Further, where performance of a given step is inadequate (e.g., chest compressions are not deep enough), the natural language processing component **112** may issue additional instructions to help the operator adequately perform the given step.

Example Prompting Computer System

[0095] As discussed above, some examples provide health survey prompts, training prompts, and instruction prompts to a user that are tailored to the needs of the user, the user's language, and the user's situation. FIG. **5** illustrates one of these examples, a distributed prompting system **500**. As

shown, FIG. **5** includes a patient **502**, a support technician **504**, a health care professional **518**, the external medical device **506**, computer systems **508** and **520**, and communication networks **510** and **522**. The computer system **508** includes a custom prompt interface **516**. While shown in FIG. **5** as included in the distributed prompting system **500**, in various examples the custom prompt interface is incorporated into the external medical device **506** and does not require a network connection. The external medical device **506** may include any programmable device (a device including memory for storing data and at least one processor in data communication with the memory) configured to monitor and potentially treat patients, such as the external medical devices described above with reference to FIGS. **3** and **4**. As shown in FIG. **5**, the medical device **506** includes the medical device controller **102**. The medical device controller **102** includes the network interface **106**. Both the medical device controller and the network interface **106** are described above with reference to FIG. **1**. The computer system **508** may include one or more computer systems, such as the computer system described below with reference to FIG. **6**. In particular, the computer system may include mobile computing devices (e.g., smart phones, tablet computers, personal digital assistants, etc.).

[0096] As depicted in FIG. **5**, the computer system **508** and the external medical device **506** exchange (i.e. send or receive) information via the network **510**. Similarly, the computer system **520** and the computer system **508** exchange information via the network **522**. The network **510** or the network **522** may include any communication network through which programmable devices may exchange information. For example, the network **510** or the network **522** may be a public network, such as the internet, and may include other public or private networks such as LANs, WANs, extranets, intranets, and cloud computing systems. The network **510** or the network **522** may also include cellular networks such as CMDA, EvDO, GSM, and iDEN networks. Although the network **510** and the network **522** are illustrated as distinct networks in FIG. **5**, examples disclosed herein are not limited to two distinct networks. The network **510** and the network **522** may be a unified, connected network or may include other networks without departing from the scope of the examples disclosed herein.

[0097] In some examples, an authorized person, such as a health care professional **518** treating the patient **502** via the external medical device **506**, seeks additional information from the patient **502** via the external medical device **506**. The additional information sought by the authorized person may include answers to direct questions, as may be presented in a health survey as discussed above.

[0098] To initiate information collection via the external medical device **506**, the health care professional **518** may instruct the support technician **504** to alter prompt information of the external medical device by conducting an update process. In some examples, the health care professional **518** may communicate these instructions via the custom prompt interface **516**. In these examples, the custom prompt interface **516** includes a secure, web based, storage and retrieval system for information gathered by external medical devices, such as the external medical device **506**. Using the custom prompt interface **516**, health care professionals (e.g., the health care professional **518**) can access data for patients (e.g. the patient **502**) wearing devices (e.g., the external medical device **506**) and monitor the patient's medical condition, review responses to prompts, review alert histories, and the like.

[0099] In one example illustrated in FIG. **5**, the custom prompt interface **516** serves a secure user interface to the health care professional **518** via the network **522** and the computer system **520**. The computer system **520** renders the user interface and exchanges information descriptive of instructions to alter the configuration of the external medical device **506** with the health care professional **518**. In response to receiving input requesting a change to the configuration of the external medical device, the custom prompt interface **516** processes the information and provides the instructions to the support technician **504**. To exchange information with the health care professional **518**, the custom prompt interface **516** may employ a variety of metaphors and user interface elements. Examples of user interface elements served by the custom prompt interface **516**

and rendered by the computer system **520** are described further below with reference to FIGS. **7-9**.

[0100] In some examples, and as illustrated in FIG. **5**, the computer system **508** also renders the custom prompt interface **516** to the support technician **504**. When rendered to the support technician **504**, the custom prompt interface **516** is configured to exchange information with the support technician **504** and the external medical device **506**. The information processed by the custom prompt interface **516** may include requests to change prompt information, requests for authorization, requests for update sessions, requests for authentication, requests to initiate updates, requests to process acknowledgments, and the like. To exchange information with the external medical device **506**, the custom prompt interface **516** generates and transmits messages to the external medical device **506** that subscribe to a protocol supported by the external medical device **506**. To exchange information with the support technician **504**, the custom prompt interface **516** may employ a variety of metaphors and user interface elements. For instance, in one example, the custom prompt interface **516** includes a support interface with screens and other elements that, when selected by the support technician **504**, prompt the support technician **504** to enter a request to change parameters of the external medical device **506**. Further, in this example, the support interface includes elements configured to initiate transmission of altered configuration information, including custom prompt data, from the computer system **508** to the external medical device **506**. Responsive to receiving the altered configuration information, the external medical device processes the altered configuration information and adjusts its operation accordingly. Additional examples of processes and acts that the distributed prompting system is configured to execute are described below with reference to FIG. **10**.

Computer System

[0101] As discussed above with regard to FIG. **5**, various aspects and functions described herein may be implemented as specialized hardware or software components executing in one or more computer systems. There are many examples of computer systems that are currently in use. These examples include, among others, network appliances, personal computers, workstations, mainframes, networked clients, servers, media servers, application servers, database servers, and web servers. Other examples of computer systems may include mobile computing devices (e.g., smart phones, tablet computers, laptop computers, and personal digital assistants) and network equipment (e.g., load balancers, routers, and switches). Examples of particular models of mobile computing devices include iPhones, iPads, and iPod touches running iOS operating system available from Apple, Android devices like Samsung Galaxy Series, LG *Nexus*, and Motorola Droid X, Blackberry devices available from Blackberry Limited, and Areas Phone devices. Further, aspects may be located on a single computer system or may be distributed among a plurality of computer systems connected to one or more communications networks.

[0102] For example, various aspects, functions, and processes may be distributed among one or more computer systems configured to provide a service to one or more client computers, or to perform an overall task as part of a distributed system. Additionally, aspects may be performed on a client-server or multi-tier system that includes components distributed among one or more server systems that perform various functions. Consequently, examples are not limited to executing on any particular system or group of systems. Further, aspects, functions, and processes may be implemented in software, hardware or firmware, or any combination thereof. Thus, aspects, functions, and processes may be implemented within methods, acts, systems, system elements and components using a variety of hardware and software configurations, and examples are not limited to any particular distributed architecture, network, or communication protocol.

[0103] Referring to FIG. **6**, there is illustrated a block diagram of a distributed computer system **600**, in which various aspects and functions are practiced. As described above with reference to FIG. **5**, in at least one example, the computer system **508** includes one or more distributed computer systems such as the computer system **600**. As shown in FIG. **6**, the distributed computer system **600** includes one more computer systems that exchange information. More specifically, the

distributed computer system **600** includes computer systems **602**, **604**, and **606**. As shown, the computer systems **602**, **604**, and **606** are interconnected by, and may exchange data through, a communication network **608**. The network **608** may include any communication network through which computer systems may exchange data. To exchange data using the network **608**, the computer systems **602**, **604**, and **606** and the network **608** may use various methods, protocols and standards, including, among others, Fibre Channel, Token Ring, Ethernet, Wireless Ethernet, Bluetooth, IP, IPV6, TCP/IP, UDP, DTN, HTTP, FTP, SNMP, SMS, MMS, SS7, JSON, SOAP, CORBA, REST, and Web Services. To ensure data transfer is secure, the computer systems **602**, **604**, and **606** may transmit data via the network **608** using a variety of security measures including, for example, TLS, SSL, or VPN. While the distributed computer system **600** illustrates three networked computer systems, the distributed computer system **600** is not so limited and may include any number of computer systems and computing devices, networked using any medium and communication protocol.

[0104] As illustrated in FIG. **6**, the computer system **602** includes a processor **610**, a memory **612**, an interconnection element **614**, an interface **616** and data storage element **618**. To implement at least some of the aspects, functions, and processes disclosed herein, the processor **610** performs a series of instructions that result in manipulated data. The processor **610** may be any type of processor, multiprocessor or controller. Some exemplary processors include commercially available processors such as an Intel Xeon, Itanium, Core, Celeron, or Pentium processor, an AMD Opteron processor, an Apple A4 or A5 processor, a Sun UltraSPARC or IBM Power5+ processor and an IBM mainframe chip. The processor **610** is connected to other system components, including one or more memory devices **612**, by the interconnection element **614**.

[0105] The memory **612** stores programs and data during operation of the computer system **602**. Thus, the memory **612** may be a relatively high performance, volatile, random access memory such as a dynamic random access memory ("DRAM") or static memory ("SRAM"). However, the memory **612** may include any device for storing data, such as a disk drive or other nonvolatile storage device. Various examples may organize the memory **612** into particularized and, in some cases, unique structures to perform the functions disclosed herein. These data structures may be sized and organized to store values for particular data and types of data.

[0106] Components of the computer system **602** are coupled by an interconnection element such as the interconnection element **614**. The interconnection element **614** may include any communication coupling between system components such as one or more physical busses in conformance with specialized or standard computing bus technologies such as IDE, SCSI, PCI and InfiniBand. The interconnection element **614** enables communications, such as data and instructions, to be exchanged between system components of the computer system **602**.

[0107] The computer system **602** also includes one or more interface devices **616** such as input devices, output devices and combination input/output devices. Interface devices may receive input or provide output. More particularly, output devices may render information for external presentation. Input devices may accept information from external sources. Examples of interface devices include keyboards, mouse devices, trackballs, microphones, touch screens, printing devices, display screens, speakers, network interface cards, etc. Interface devices allow the computer system **602** to exchange information and to communicate with external entities, such as users and other systems.

[0108] The data storage element **618** includes a computer readable and writeable nonvolatile, or non-transitory, data storage medium in which instructions are stored that define a program or other object that is executed by the processor **610**. The data storage element **618** also may include information that is recorded, on or in, the medium, and that is processed by the processor **610** during execution of the program. More specifically, the information may be stored in one or more data structures specifically configured to conserve storage space or increase data exchange performance. The instructions may be persistently stored as encoded signals, and the instructions

may cause the processor **610** to perform any of the functions described herein. The medium may, for example, be optical disk, magnetic disk or flash memory, among others. In operation, the processor **610** or some other controller causes data to be read from the nonvolatile recording medium into another memory, such as the memory **612**, that allows for faster access to the information by the processor **610** than does the storage medium included in the data storage element **618**. The memory may be located in the data storage element **618** or in the memory **612**, however, the processor **610** manipulates the data within the memory, and then copies the data to the storage medium associated with the data storage element **618** after processing is completed. A variety of components may manage data movement between the storage medium and other memory elements and examples are not limited to particular data management components. Further, examples are not limited to a particular memory system or data storage system.

[0109] Although the computer system **602** is shown by way of example as one type of computer system upon which various aspects and functions may be practiced, aspects and functions are not limited to being implemented on the computer system **602** as shown in FIG. **6**. Various aspects and functions may be practiced on one or more computers having a different architectures or components than that shown in FIG. **6**. For instance, the computer system **602** may include specially programmed, special-purpose hardware, such as an application-specific integrated circuit ("ASIC") tailored to perform a particular operation disclosed herein. Another example may perform the same function using a grid of several general-purpose computing devices running MAC OS System X with Motorola PowerPC processors and several specialized computing devices running proprietary hardware and operating systems.

[0110] The computer system **602** may be a computer system including an operating system that manages at least a portion of the hardware elements included in the computer system **602**. In some examples, a processor or controller, such as the processor **610**, executes an operating system. Examples of a particular operating system that may be executed include a Windows-based operating system, such as, Windows NT, Windows 2000 (Windows ME), Windows XP, Windows Vista or Windows 7 operating systems, available from the Microsoft Corporation, a MAC OS System X operating system or an iOS operating system available from Apple Computer, one of many Linux-based operating system distributions, for example, the Enterprise Linux operating system available from Red Hat Inc., a Solaris operating system available from Sun Microsystems, or a UNIX operating systems available from various sources. Many other operating systems may be used, and examples are not limited to any particular operating system.

[0111] The processor **610** and operating system together define a computer platform for which application programs in high-level programming languages are written. These component applications may be executable, intermediate, bytecode or interpreted code which communicates over a communication network, for example, the Internet, using a communication protocol, for example, TCP/IP. Similarly, aspects may be implemented using an object-oriented programming language, such as .Net, SmallTalk, Java, C++, Ada, C# (C-Sharp), Python, or JavaScript. Other object-oriented programming languages may also be used. Alternatively, functional, scripting, or logical programming languages may be used.

[0112] Additionally, various aspects and functions may be implemented in a non-programmed environment. For example, documents created in HTML, XML or other formats, when viewed in a window of a browser program, can render aspects of a graphical-user interface or perform other functions. Further, various examples may be implemented as programmed or non-programmed elements, or any combination thereof. For example, a web page may be implemented using HTML while a data object called from within the web page may be written in C++. Thus, the examples are not limited to a specific programming language and any suitable programming language could be used. Accordingly, the functional components disclosed herein may include a wide variety of elements (e.g., specialized hardware, executable code, data structures or objects) that are configured to perform the functions described herein.

[0113] In some examples, the components disclosed herein may read parameters that affect the functions performed by the components. These parameters may be physically stored in any form of suitable memory including volatile memory (such as RAM) or nonvolatile memory (such as a magnetic hard drive). In addition, the parameters may be logically stored in a propriety data structure (such as a database or file defined by a user mode application) or in a commonly shared data structure (such as an application registry that is defined by an operating system). In addition, some examples provide for both system and user interfaces that allow external entities to modify the parameters and thereby configure the behavior of the components.

Example Prompting Interfaces

[0114] FIG. **7** shows one example interface configured to receive input selecting one or more customized prompts for transmission to an external medical device, such as those discussed above with reference to FIGS. **3** and **4**. As shown, the interface **700** includes one or more user interface screens having a plurality of tabs **702** each having an associated topic, such as "Alerts", "Wear Time", "All Recordings", "Trends", "Trend Setup", "Setup Info", "Health Survey Setup", and "Walk Test Setup". In further examples, the interface **700** may include tabs not shown in FIG. **7**. User interface elements associated with each individual tab **702** of the interface **700** are presented to the user responsive to user selection of the individual tab. FIG. **7** shows user selection of the "Health Survey Setup" tab **704**.

[0115] According to one example, the "Health Survey Setup" tab **704** provides check boxes, text boxes, scroll boxes, or any other input components configured to receive selections of user defined customized prompts. As shown in FIG. **7**, users may define health survey prompts including one or more questions. In one example, the "Health Survey Setup" tab **704** includes a listing of prompts **706** to communicate to a patient using natural language (e.g., audio prompts). Various prompts **706** may be, e.g., predefined and displayed in a listing, each having an associated check box **708** selectable by the user. Responsive to user selection of an associated check box **708**, the interface **700** may display a confirmation symbol (e.g., check mark) proximate the check box **708** of the prompt **706** selected. User selection of individual prompts **706** permits the user of the interface **700** to customize a prompt-based health survey to be communicated to an associated patient. Tab **704** is shown as including at least the following prompts **706**: "How many pillows did you sleep on last night?"; "Has your weight changed from yesterday?"; "How much activity have you averaged in the past few days?"; "Have you felt dizzy"; "Are you feeling fatigued"; "Are you having difficulty climbing the stairs?"; "Have you felt your heart racing"; "Have you felt your heart beating irregularly?"; "Are you short of breath?"; "Do you have swelling in your ankles and legs?"; "Have you had any chest pain?"; and "Have you missed any medications", but the examples disclosed herein are not be limited to these prompts **706**.

[0116] In various examples, the interface **700** may include one or more text boxes configured to add a new prompt to the listing responsive to receiving an input of the new custom prompt in the text box. Accordingly, a user of the system may customize the listing of prompts **706** shown in the "Health Survey Setup" tab **704**. In some examples, users can be granted different access-levels to modify the prompt data. Such user access-levels can result in certain rights being granted to users of the interface **700**. For example, access-level rights can be managed using default or specified access control features provided in an operating system of the medical device controller. For example, a physician may be granted rights to edit the content of the custom prompts **706** and/or specify new prompts. A nurse, on the other hand, may be restricted to only selecting one or more predefined prompts **706** that were, e.g., previously set by the physician.

[0117] According to one example, the "Health Survey Setup" tab **704** includes a disable feature switch **710**, a daily switch **712**, and a weekly switch **714**. Responsive to user selection of the disable switch **710**, the daily switch **712**, or the weekly switch **714**, one or more components of an external medical device, such as the controller **102** discussed above with regards to FIG. **1**, are configured to communicate, or refrain from, communicating the user selected prompts **706** via the

external medical device. User selection of the disable switch **710** configures the external medical device to not communicate a health survey, user selection of the daily switch **712** configures the external medical device to issue the selected prompts on a daily schedule, and user selection of the weekly switch configures the external medical device to issue the selected prompts on a weekly schedule. While not shown, in further examples the interface may include a scheduling calendar, or one or more text boxes configured to receive dates or times at which to communicate the user selected prompts. In still further examples, the interface **700** may permit the user to select periods of delay for which the refrain from communicating. For example, a user may select via the interface **700** to refrain from communicating the prompts **706** during the nighttime hours of 1 AM to 5 AM. As discussed further below with reference to FIG. **10**, the interface **700** may store the scheduling information discussed above within custom prompt data as one or more target events (e.g., prompt times) associated with the prompts.

[0118] According to one example, the "Health Survey Setup" tab **704** includes a number of iterations display **716** including an indefinitely switch **718** and an enter number switch **720**. The enter number switch **720** may have an associated enter number text box **722**. Responsive to user selection of the indefinitely switch **718** or the enter number switch **720**, one or more components of an external medical device, such as the controller **102** discussed above with regards to FIG. **1**, are configured to communicate the user selected custom prompts **706** via an associated external medical device for a number of iterations. User selection of the indefinitely switch **718** configures the external medical device to communicate the user selected prompts **706** in perpetuity (i.e., until the external medical device is reconfigured or placed out of service), whereas user selection of the enter number switch **720** configures the external medical device to communicate the selected prompts **706** the number of times identified by the user in the enter number text box **722**. Accordingly, the user of the interface **700** may predetermine the volume of communications sent to the external medical device.

[0119] In one example, the "Health Survey Setup" tab **704** further includes a save indicator **724** configured to store user selections and preferences responsive to activation of the save indicator **724**. For example, user selections may be stored in profiles accessible through a drop-down menu, such as menu **726**. As shown in FIG. **7**, responsive to user selection of the drop down menu **726**, the interface **700** may present the user with one or more profiles of stored user selections. Profiles may be presented via a single selectable identifier, such as a date, name, user, health condition, health care provider, etc. Responsive to selection of the identifier, the interface **700** pre-populates the user selectable options (e.g., prompts **706**, disable feature switch **710**, daily switch **712**, weekly switch **714**, etc.) in the "Health Survey Setup" tab **704**. Accordingly, users of the interface **700** may save and return to prompt **706** selections at any time. Alternatively, the interface **700** may include a List Manager indicator **728**. Responsive to selection of the List Manager indicator **728**, the interface **700** may display a comprehensive listing of all the stored profiles of stored user selections.

[0120] Turning now to FIG. **8**, shown is a "Health Survey Results Review" tab **802**. As discussed herein, one or more examples store data descriptive of one or more prompts to be provided to a user to initiate a response from the user. According to one example, the "Health Survey Setup" tab **704** provides check boxes, text boxes, scroll boxes, lists, areas, and any other display permitting a user to view and interact with customized prompts and associated responses. In one example, the "Health Survey Results Review" tab **802** includes a listing of prompts **804**. In various examples, the listing of prompts **804** may be included in a survey. As discussed above with reference to FIG. **7**, prompts **804** may include customized health survey prompts including one or more questions. In various examples, the listing of prompts **804** includes the prompts **706** selected by the user in Health Survey Review tab **702**. The "Health Survey Results Review" tab **802** may additionally present a listing of responses **806**. In various examples, each response **806** corresponds to a prompt **804** in the listing of prompts. For example, each response **806** may include an answer to the

question posed by the associated prompt **804**. For purpose of illustration, the response to the prompt "How many pillows did you sleep on last night?" is "1". Responses **806** may include a description of an answer received from a patient of an external medical device. In various examples, this may include, numbers, colors, descriptive words, phrases, times, addresses, sentences, noises, sounds, yes/no answers, and etc. While not shown in FIG. **8**, the "Health Survey Results Review" tab **802** may further include one or more navigational tools permitting the user to navigate through the listing of prompts **804** or responses **806**.

[0121] In one example, the Health Survey Results Review tab **802** further includes a date performed scroll box **808**, including a listing of the dates and times at which prompts **804** were communicated, or responses **806** were received. As shown in FIG. **8**, the date performed scroll box **808** may display each listing of prompts **804** and responses **806** having a particular date or time via a date identifier **810**. Responsive to selection of the date identifier **810**, the "Health Survey Results Review" tab **802** is configured to display the listing of prompts **804** and responses **806** associated with that selected time period. Accordingly, the date performed scroll box **808** permits the user to navigate between listings of prompts **804** and associated listings of responses **806**.

[0122] In one example, the "Health Survey Results Review" tab **802** further includes an additional health surveys **812** feature. In one example this may include a previous indicator **814**. Responsive to user selection of the previous indicator **814**, the "Health Survey Results Review" tab **802** presents a previously performed listing of prompts and responses. As discussed above, this listing may include a previously performed survey. For example, the previously performed survey may include repeated prompts at an earlier date, or prompts and responses for a common patient. Accordingly, the Health Survey Results Review tab **802** may also display an indicator **816** of the amount of surveys performed for a particular patient.

[0123] In one example, the "Health Survey Results Review" tab **802** may further include a trend indicator **818**. Responsive to user selection of the trend indicator, the interface **700** may cause trends in patient responses and other trends related data to be displayed (e.g., user interface elements associated with the "Trends" tab shown in FIGS. **7-8**).

[0124] Turning now to FIG. **9**, shown is a "Trend" tab **902**. In various examples, the "Trend" tab **902** presents one or more visual representations of responses, such as the responses **806** of FIG. **8**, for a particular prompt **904**, such as prompts **706** or prompts **804**, over a period of time. In various examples, the "Trend" tab **902** includes a visual representation for each prompt included in a listing of prompts, such as a survey. As shown in FIG. **9**, visual representations may include graphs, charts, figures, and images, among other graphic representations. In particular, FIG. **9** shows a first visual representation **906** of responses to the prompt "How many pillows did you sleep on last night?" Responses for this prompt are indicated along the vertical axis **908** of the first visual representation **906** and dates at which the responses were received are located along the horizontal axis **910**. The "Trend" tab **902** may further include a selectable indicator **912** permitting the user to show the particular response associated with an individual date. Responsive to user selection of the selectable indicator **912**, the "Trend" tab **902** presents one or more windows including the details of the particular response associated with a date. The details may be presented in a list, as shown in FIG. **8**, or in any other arrangement. The "Trend" tab **902** may further include a navigation bar **914**. Responsive to user translation of the navigation bar **914**, the "Trend" tab is configured to proportionately navigate about the first visual representation **906**.

[0125] As shown in FIG. **9**, the "Trend" tab **902** may also include a second visual representation. In particular, FIG. **9** shows a second visual representation **916** of responses to the prompt "Has your weight changed from yesterday?" Responses for this prompt are indicated along the vertical axis **918** of the second visual representation **916** and dates at which the responses were received are located along the horizontal axis **920**. The "Trend" tab **902** may further include a selectable indicator **922** permitting the user to show the particular response associated with an individual date and a navigation bar **924** permitting the user to navigate the second graphical representation **916**.

[0126] In various examples, the "Trend" tab **902** may further include a return indicator **926**. Responsive to user selection of the return indicator, the interface **700** may cause the Health Survey Results Review tab **802** of FIG. **8** to be redisplayed.

[0127] It is appreciated that, in some examples, the entirety of the user interface screens presented in FIGS. **7-9** may be implemented as a series of prompts processed by a natural language processor, such as the natural language processor **112** described above with reference to FIG. **1**. For instance, the prompts described above with reference to the prompt list **706** may be issued by an external medical device as audio or tactile prompts. Verbal responses to these prompts may be processed and the results recorded to configure a health survey for a particular patient.

Example Prompting Processes

[0128] Various examples implement processes through which an external medical device prompts a target recipient using natural language. These prompts may take the form of questions in a health survey or instructions and training, among other forms. FIG. **10** illustrates one such prompting process **1000** in which a distributed prompting system, such as the distributed prompting system **500** described above with reference to FIG. **5**, receives customized prompts and distributes the customized prompts to one or more external medical devices for subsequent output. In this example, the external medical device may be configured in accord with the external medical device **300**, the external medical device **400**, or another external medical device. Further, the external medical device may include a medical device controller, such as the medical device controller **102** described above with reference to FIG. **1**.

[0129] As shown in FIG. **10**, the prompting process **1000** begins with provision of a custom prompt interface in act **1002**. The custom prompt interface may include a variety of user interface elements rendered according to various designs. In some examples, the computer system **520** described above with reference to FIG. **5** renders the custom prompt interface **516**. In some examples, the computer system **508** renders the custom prompt interface via a local user interface (e.g., connected via WiFi to a local LAN for access on a computer terminal in the hospital). In some implementations, the custom prompt interface may be disposed on the medical device itself to facilitate local configuration and set-up. In one example where the custom prompt interface is directed to health survey prompts, the custom prompt interface renders a user interface screen in accord with the user interface screens described above with reference to FIGS. **7-9**. As described above, in some examples, the information presented in these user interface screens is rendered as natural language prompts (e.g., audio prompts or visual prompts in the form of sign language). In some examples, the custom prompt interface provides information regarding selectable health survey prompts. In some examples, the custom prompt interface provides information regarding selectable instruction prompts. In some examples, the custom prompt interface provides information regarding selectable training prompts. In some examples, the custom prompt interface provides user interface elements configured to receive text or other input specifying and selecting new prompts to be transmitted to the external medical device.

[0130] In act **1004**, the custom prompt interface receives custom prompt input from a user, such as the health care professional **518** or the support technician **504** described above with reference to FIG. **5**. This custom prompt input may be in any form detectable by a computer system. Examples of custom prompt input include entered text, one or more selections of user interface elements, and the like. For instance, with reference to FIG. **5**, the custom prompt input may include a selection of a check box corresponding to a prompt. In response to receiving the custom prompt input, the custom prompt interface stores data representative of the input in a data store, such as may be implemented, for example, in computer readable memory or computer readable data storage. In some examples, the data representative of the input is stored for subsequent processing as custom prompt data.

[0131] In optional act **1006**, the custom prompt interface transmits custom prompt data to the external medical device. In cases where the custom prompt data is stored locally, e.g., within a data

storage element in the medical device controller, this act **1006** can be skipped. This custom prompt data may include identifiers of previously defined prompts, definitions of new prompts, identifiers of previously defined target events that trigger prompts, definitions of new target events that trigger prompts, identifiers of previously defined responses to be addressed, definitions of new responses to be addressed, identifiers of previously defined actions to be taken in addressing responses, and definitions of new actions to be taken in addressing responses. The transmission of the custom prompt data may be performed using a variety of components that support various protocols, such as via email, FTP, or more specialized transmission techniques. In some examples, the custom prompt data is transmitted to the external medical device as a change to configuration information within a secure update process, such as the update processes described in U.S. Patent Application Publication 2013/0231711, titled "SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR CONFIGURING A WEARABLE MEDICAL MONITORING AND/OR TREATMENT DEVICE," published Sep. 5, 2013, which is hereby incorporate herein by reference in its entirety.

[0132] In optional act **1008**, the external medical device receives the custom prompt data and stores the custom prompt data in a data store. In implementations where the custom prompt data is stored locally, this act **1008** can be skipped. In some examples, the external medical device repeatedly executes the act **1008** while executing other acts to ensure that any custom prompt data transmitted by the custom prompt interface is received and stored in the external medical device.

[0133] In act **1010**, the external medical device parses the custom prompt data to identify target events that trigger one or more prompts. These target events may include any occurrence that is detectable by the external medical device. Examples of target events include presence of target environmental characteristics, presence of target physical conditions of a patient, presence of target operational statuses of the external medical device, presence of target time periods, and the like. In one particular example, the custom prompt data specifies the target time period. In additional examples, the custom prompt data omits the target time period and a default time period is identified.

[0134] In act **1012**, the external medical device attempts to detect a target event. If the external medical device detects a target event, the external medical device proceeds to act **1014**. In the act **1014**, the external medical device issues one or more prompts triggered by the target event to one or more target recipients identified within the prompt definition. Also within the act **1014**, the external medical device returns to the act **1010** and parses any newly received custom prompt data.

[0135] By monitoring for events in the act **1012**, the external medical device may issue prompts in the act **1014** upon receipt (e.g., where the event is detection of the readiness of the external medical device to issue the prompt), according to a schedule (e.g., where the event is detection of the current time being within a targeted time period), in response to indications of potential health conditions of a patient as detected by any of the sensors of the external medical device described herein (e.g., a cardiac arrhythmia, shortness of breath, garbled speech, or other patient abnormality), in response to maintenance being performed on the external medical device (e.g., wherein the event is detection of a battery, such as the battery **110** described above with reference to FIG. **1**, being replaced), or upon detection of other target events. Further, within the act **1012**, if the external medical device does not detect a target event, the external medical device returns to the act **1010** and parses any newly received custom prompt data.

[0136] The prompts may be delivered as synthesized speech by, for example, converting textual input provided through the custom prompt interface to speech in a language understandable by the patient. For example, a text-to-speech converter may be employed to perform the voice synthesis, e.g., a reproduction of human speech. In this example, the text may be analyzed. The custom prompt may comprise an utterance composed of words and/or phrases, which may be linguistically analyzed for, e.g., phasing, intonation, and duration, to result in an utterance composed of phonemes. Through the analysis of the phonemes, speech wave forms may be generated to output the spoken prompts.

[0137] In some examples, the prompts may be delivered by an on-screen animation or illustration of a person performing sign language. As noted above, the custom prompts may be decomposed into words and/or phrases for further conversion to a suitable format for sign language processing (e.g., to output to a patient via American sign language). Divisions are generally made using separators such as punctuation marks and spaces in the text; however, in some implementations divisions may include multiple words, such as a phrase. Once decomposed, individual words and/or phrases may be matched to a database of animations or on-screen illustrations of sign language corresponding to each of the individual words or phrases. Through the analysis of the custom prompt, the corresponding illustrations of sign language or on-screen animations may be displayed to the patient.

[0138] In other examples, the prompts may be delivered by a printing device as a tactile output (Braille). As described above, the custom prompts may be decomposed into letters, words, phrases, and/or punctuation for further conversion to a suitable format for tactile language processing (e.g., to output to a patient via Braille). In contrast to reproductions of human speech or illustrations of sign language, custom prompts to be rendered as tactile output may be deconstructed into individual letters and punctuation marks. Once deconstructed, individual letters and punctuation marks are matched to a database of Braille letters and punctuation marks and reassembled to form words, phrases, and sentences. Through analysis and transposition of the custom prompt to Braille, a tactile output may be printed and delivered to a patient who is unable to otherwise hear a speech waveform or see an illustrated animation.

[0139] In act **1016**, the external medical device attempts to detect a response within a predetermined period of time specified by a configurable parameter. If the external medical device detects a response within the predetermined period of time, the external medical device proceeds to act **1018**. If the external medical device does not detect a response within the predetermined period of time, the external medical device proceeds to act **1024**.

[0140] In act **1018**, the external medical device stores data representative of the response in a data store. In act **1020**, the external medical device determines whether the response received is a target response to be addressed by the external medical device (e.g., as defined within the custom prompt data). Examples of addressable events include events that indicate a patient is in need of assistance (as detected by any of the sensors of the external medical device described herein) and events that indicate the external medical device is in need of repair or maintenance.

[0141] If the external medical device determines that the response is addressable, the external medical device addresses the response in act **1022**. In addressing a response, the external medical device may alter a course of treatment (e.g., delay a therapeutic shock or expedite a therapeutic shock), adjust a configurable operational parameter of the external medical device, prompt a third party to take action via a natural language prompt (e.g., call an emergency service and report the event and information regarding the patient, such as location, identity, and vital signs, to the service), or prompt a user to take action via a natural language prompt (e.g., change a battery).

[0142] In the act **1024**, the external medical device reports the results of the prompting process **1000**. FIGS. **8** and **9** illustrate user interface screens provided by the external medical device for this purpose according to some examples.

[0143] In some examples, execution of the acts **1006** and **1008** is not required. For instance, where the acts **1002** and **1004** are executed by the external medical device, rather than a distinct computer system, the custom prompt data is stored locally on the external medical device, thereby eliminating the need to execute the acts **1006** and **1008**.

[0144] Process **1000** depicts one particular sequence of acts in a particular example. The acts included in this process may be performed by, or using, one or more computer systems specially configured as discussed herein. Some acts are optional and, as such, may be omitted in accord with one or more examples. Additionally, the order of acts can be altered, or other acts can be added, without departing from the scope of the systems and methods discussed herein. Furthermore, as

discussed above, in at least one example, the acts are performed on a particular, specially configured machine, namely a medical device configured according to the examples disclosed herein.

[0145] In some examples, the external medical devices described herein may use custom prompts as part of a physical activity test (e.g., a six minute walk test) administered to the patient. The external medical device may be employed to monitor the gait of the patient while the patient walks. In these examples, the custom prompts may be communicated to guide the patient throughout the physical activity test, ascertain patient conditions prior to, during, and after the test, and provide warnings for emergency conditions occurring during the test. Custom prompts may request, for example, shortness of breath information and fatigue information. Furthermore, warnings may include alerts and instructions to cease the physical activity test because of detected indicators of a cardiac arrest or other health problems. These physical activity tests may include, for example, a six minute walk test as described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/833,173, titled "WEARABLE MEDICAL TREATMENT DEVICE WITH MOTION/POSITION DETECTION," filed Jul. 9, 2010, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference herein in its entirety, and the paper "Guidelines for the Six-Minute Walk Test" published by the American Thoracic Society in March 2002, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference herein in its entirety.

[0146] Having thus described several aspects of at least one example of this disclosure, it is to be appreciated various alterations, modifications, and improvements will readily occur to those skilled in the art. Such alterations, modifications, and improvements are intended to be part of this disclosure, and are intended to be within the scope of the disclosure. Accordingly, the foregoing description and drawings are by way of example only.

Claims

1-27. (canceled)

28. A wearable defibrillator configured to be ambulatory and move with a patient and further configured to receive and provide custom prompts, comprising: a garment comprising a pair of shoulder straps and a belt that are configured to be worn about a torso of a patient; a plurality of sensing electrodes configured to sense the patient's ECG, the plurality of sensing electrodes attached to the garment; a plurality of therapy electrodes configured to deliver one or more therapeutic defibrillating shocks to the patient; and an external medical device controller electrically connected to the plurality of sensing electrodes and the plurality of therapy electrodes, the external medical device controller comprising a data storage and at least one processor configured to perform a series of instructions that, when executed by the at least one processor, cause the at least one processor to receive one or more custom prompts from a health care professional for a physical activity test, wherein the one or more custom prompts are configured to perform at least one of guiding the patient through the physical activity test, ascertaining patient conditions prior to the physical activity test, ascertaining patient conditions during the physical activity test, ascertaining patient conditions after the physical activity test, or providing warnings for emergency conditions during the physical activity test, administer the physical activity test to the patient, and communicate the one or more custom prompts to the patient during the physical activity test.

29. The wearable defibrillator of claim 28, wherein the physical activity test comprises a six minute walk test.

30. The wearable defibrillator of claim 28, wherein the series of instructions are further configured to cause the at least one processor to monitor a gait of the patient during the physical activity test.

31. The wearable defibrillator of claim 28, wherein the one or more custom prompts comprise an instruction to cease the physical activity test.

32. The wearable defibrillator of claim 28, wherein the series of instructions are further configured

to cause the at least one processor to detect one or more speech patterns of the patient during the physical activity test.

33. The wearable defibrillator of claim 32, wherein the series of instructions are further configured to cause the at least one processor to provide one or more suggestions to the patient based on the detected one or more speech patterns.

34. The wearable defibrillator of claim 33, wherein the detected one or more speech patterns comprise labored breathing.

35. The wearable defibrillator of claim 33, wherein the one or more suggestions comprise suggesting that the patient slow down or stop the physical activity test.

36. The wearable defibrillator of claim 33, wherein the series of instructions are further configured to cause the at least one processor to provide one or more suggestions to the patient based on the detected one or more speech patterns and based further on additional correlating information.

37. The wearable defibrillator of claim 36, wherein the additional correlating information comprises a heart rate of the patient.

38. The wearable defibrillator of claim 28, wherein the external medical device controller is in networked communication with a computer system configured to provide a custom prompt interface to the health care professional.

39. The wearable defibrillator of claim 38, wherein the series of instructions is configured to cause the at least one processor to receive the one or more custom prompts from the health care professional for the physical activity test via the computer system providing the custom prompt interface to the health care professional.

40. The wearable defibrillator of claim 28, wherein the series of instructions are further configured to cause the at least one processor to record one or more patient responses to the one or more custom prompts.

41. The wearable defibrillator of claim 40, wherein the series of instructions are further configured to cause the at least one processor to communicate the recorded one or more patient response to a computer system associated with a health care professional.

42. The wearable defibrillator of claim 41, wherein the computer system associated with the health care professional is configured to provide a display of the one or more patient responses to the one or more custom prompts.

43. The wearable defibrillator of claim 42, wherein the display comprises a date identifier for each of the one or more patient responses.

44. The wearable defibrillator of claim 41, wherein the computer system associated with the health care professional is configured to provide a display of a trend of patient responses comprising the one or more patient responses to the one or more custom prompts.

45. The wearable defibrillator of claim 44, wherein the display of the trend of patient responses comprises at least one of a graph, chart, or figure.

46. The wearable defibrillator of claim 28, wherein the series of instructions are further configured to cause the at least one processor to prompt the patient, via a natural language prompt, to call an emergency service.

47. The wearable defibrillator of claim 28, wherein the series of instructions are further configured to cause the at least one processor to prompt the patient to change a battery of the wearable defibrillator.