



National Health Authority

National Digital Health Mission launched

August 15, 2020

Relevant to Tech M

Background

- The National Health Policy 2017 had envisaged creation of a digital health technology eco-system aiming at developing an integrated health information system that serves the needs of all stakeholders and improves efficiency, transparency and citizens' experience with linkage across public and private healthcare
- The central government's think-tank NITI Aayog, in June 2018, floated a consultation of a digital backbone for India's health system — National Health Stack (NHS)
- A committee headed by former Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) chairman released the National Digital Health Blueprint in July 2019
- On 7th August 2020, National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) released its latest strategic document, outlining the envisioned digital registries of doctors, hospitals, pharmacies, and insurance companies, digital personal health records, and digital clinical decision systems

Digital ID

- The health ID will be in the form of a mobile application. Patients can create a health ID, allowing them to share their data between hospitals and doctors digitally
- They can choose for how long or what specific documents they would like to share with whom. If individuals are looking to benefit from government schemes, then they will be required to connect their ID to their Aadhaar
- One copy of a patient's records are stored in their doctor's files and one is stored in their own individual locker (which can be owned by a company or by the government)
- Other than the registry of doctors, professionals, and institutions, this allows for decentralised storing



(Source : <https://www.jagranjosh.com/general-knowledge/national-digital-health-mission-1597647525-1>)

Understanding the system

- While the full details of the mission are still being awaited, the easiest analogy that can be drawn regarding the functioning of the digital health ID is with that of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
- Like how a Paytm or PhonePe user can use the UPI platform for a transaction, the NDHM team looks to choose from several private applications on their government-owned interface

Improving Healthcare efficiency

- Every person in the country will get a digital health ID which is basically a digital format of all his/her health records which will be linked to the registry of doctors and health facilities across the country
- The platform has been planned to improve efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of health service delivery. The health ID will be in the form of a mobile application or website
- Union health minister Harsh Vardhan, while launching the blueprint last year, had said that the government made a mark in history by launching Ayushman Bharat Yojana and other IT-enabled schemes like Reproductive Child Healthcare, and NIKSHAY etc



References:

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3. <https://www.theweek.in/news/india/2020/08/15/explained-what-is-the-national-digital-health-mission-how-does-a-health-id-card-help.html>
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