1.

Patient portals began to emerge after the adoption and growing popularity of Electronic Health Records(Sarkar, 2022). These portals enable the person to access their personal health data including laboratory test results, prescriptions, insurance, and finances (Sarkar, 2022). Recent and newly developed portals are now even providing access to scheduling of appointments and telemedicine (Sarkar, 2022). All these factors have led to improved patient-physician relationship and in turn improved quality of care (Sarkar, 2022).

Patients with access to these portals are entitled to actively participate in their health care (Sarkar, 2022). There are two main divisions of patient portals namely, Standalone and Integrated Patient Portal(Vanna, n.d.). The standalone system does not comprise of any external software to integrate the health data from EHRs (Vanna, n.d.). In contrast, integrated patient portals have the built-in management software that facilitates seamless functioning, but this design comes with complexity (Vanna, n.d.).

Benefits:

* Rapid growth is seen in the utilization of these portal by the patients and even organizations are developing their own portals to encourage patients to have access to their data (Sarkar, 2022).
* Streamlining of the workflow is greatly observed with these advancements (Sarkar, 2022). These portals indeed save a lot of time by facilitating electronic sign-ups for patients (Sarkar, 2022). This also reduces the incidence of manual error in entering the data.
* Improved communication and patient engagement are result of these portals (Sarkar, 2022). Gaining access to their health records on a timely basis aid in health awareness and education (Sarkar, 2022).
* Reduced medical errors: These portals are equipped with ML models and other software that can detect drug-to-drug interactions to ensure patient safety while prescribing medication (Sarkar, 2022).

Any technical advancement has both positive and negative implications. Some of the portals are complexly designed and cumbersome to navigate making their utility limited (Sarkar, 2022). Most of the portals available today are limited to the web browsers and this opens scope to develop more of mobile applications in the future (Sarkar, 2022).

2. References:

Sarkar, S. (2022, June 13). *What is a Patient Portal and How Does It Help Medical Practices?* <https://www.selecthub.com/medical-software/ehr/what-is-patient-portal-how-help-medical-practices/>

Vanna. (n.d.). *Types of Patient Portals for Healthcare Professionals*. <https://www.360connect.com/product-blog/types-of-patient-portals-for-healthcare-professionals/>

3.

Patient portals are unique in offering their services to the patients. Each organization has specified requirements and incorporate them in the portal design. Here are some the benefits a patient can find when accessed a portal (MedlinePlus, n.d.).

1. Schedule an appointment: This can be done at the comfort of patient’s home and time U.S. National Library of Medicine. (n.d.).
2. Request referrals: It is made possible to request referrals with online consent forms U.S. National Library of Medicine. (n.d.).
3. Access health data and various reports: These help in patient education and spread awareness U.S. National Library of Medicine. (n.d.).
4. Refill prescriptions: Availability of this feature saves the patient from making additional appointments for prescriptions U.S. National Library of Medicine. (n.d.).
5. Check benefits: Patient portal allows the patient to verify any benefits provided by the organization on a timely basis U.S. National Library of Medicine. (n.d.).
6. Update insurance and contact information: These portals made it possible to update information in case of any changes made to the previous ones U.S. National Library of Medicine. (n.d.). This saves a lot of time to the patient and always keep them updated to recent ones.
7. Make payments: This feature saves time and effort of the patient to make payments securely and effortlessly U.S. National Library of Medicine. (n.d.).
8. Telemedicine: This feature now-a-days in being used by most of the patients in case of emergencies(non-complicated) or situations that restrict travel U.S. National Library of Medicine. (n.d.).
9. Some of the patient portals even provide information about the medical histories like allergies, medicines, and immunizations U.S. National Library of Medicine. (n.d.).

Reference:

U.S. National Library of Medicine. (n.d.). *MedlinePlus: Patient portals - an online tool for your health.* https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000880.htm

4. Yes, I have access to patient portal.

5. I have access to patient portal with Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) Campus Health.

6. IUPUI Campus Health (Student Health) Patient Portal is the name of my portal.