3.13 Data Flow Diagram (DFDS)

Access to health information is fundamental to better health and has many benefits for patients and their families. This information increases knowledge about diseases and their control, enhances disease management and reduces patients' anxiety, as well as encouraging them to more actively participate in care, make better informed medical decisions and have better acceptance of medical advices.

A data flow diagram (DFD) is a graphical representation of the "flow" of data through an information system, modelling its process aspects. A DFD is often used as a preliminary step to create an overview of the system, which can later be elaborated.[2] DFDs can also be used for the visualization of data processing (structured design).

A data flow diagram (DFD) illustrates how data is processed by a system in terms of inputs and outputs. As its name indicates its focus is on the flow of information, where data comes from, where it goes and how it gets stored.

Context Diagram. A context diagram is a top level (also known as "Level 0") data flow diagram. It only contains one process node ("Process 0") that generalizes the function of the entire system in relationship to external entities.

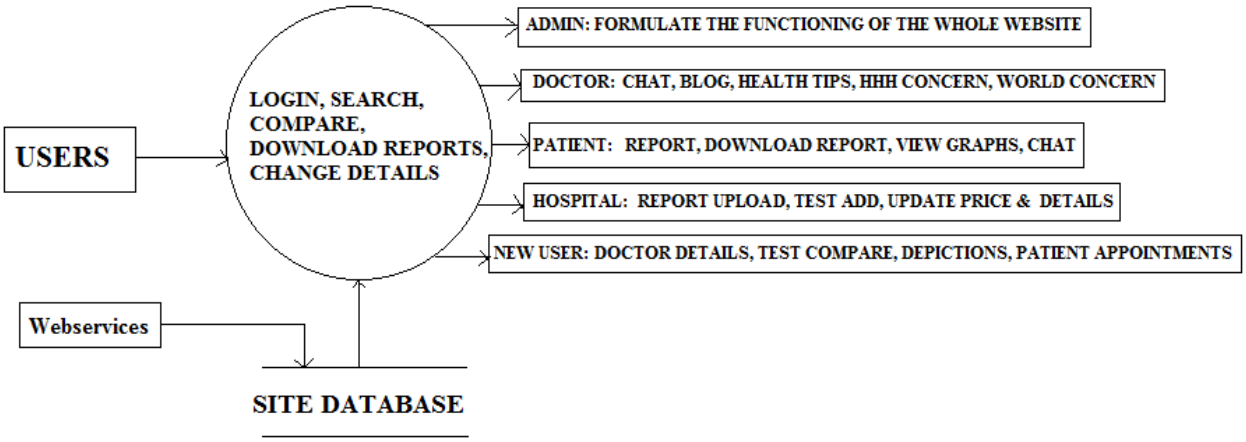

Figure 3.9: 0-Level DFD for Heal Helping Hand

DFD Layers. Draw data flow diagrams can be made in several nested layers. A single process node on a high level diagram can be expanded to show a more detailed data flow diagram. Draw the context diagram first, followed by various layers of data flow diagrams.

DFD Levels. The first level DFD shows the main processes within the system. Each of these processes can be broken into further processes until you reach pseudo code.

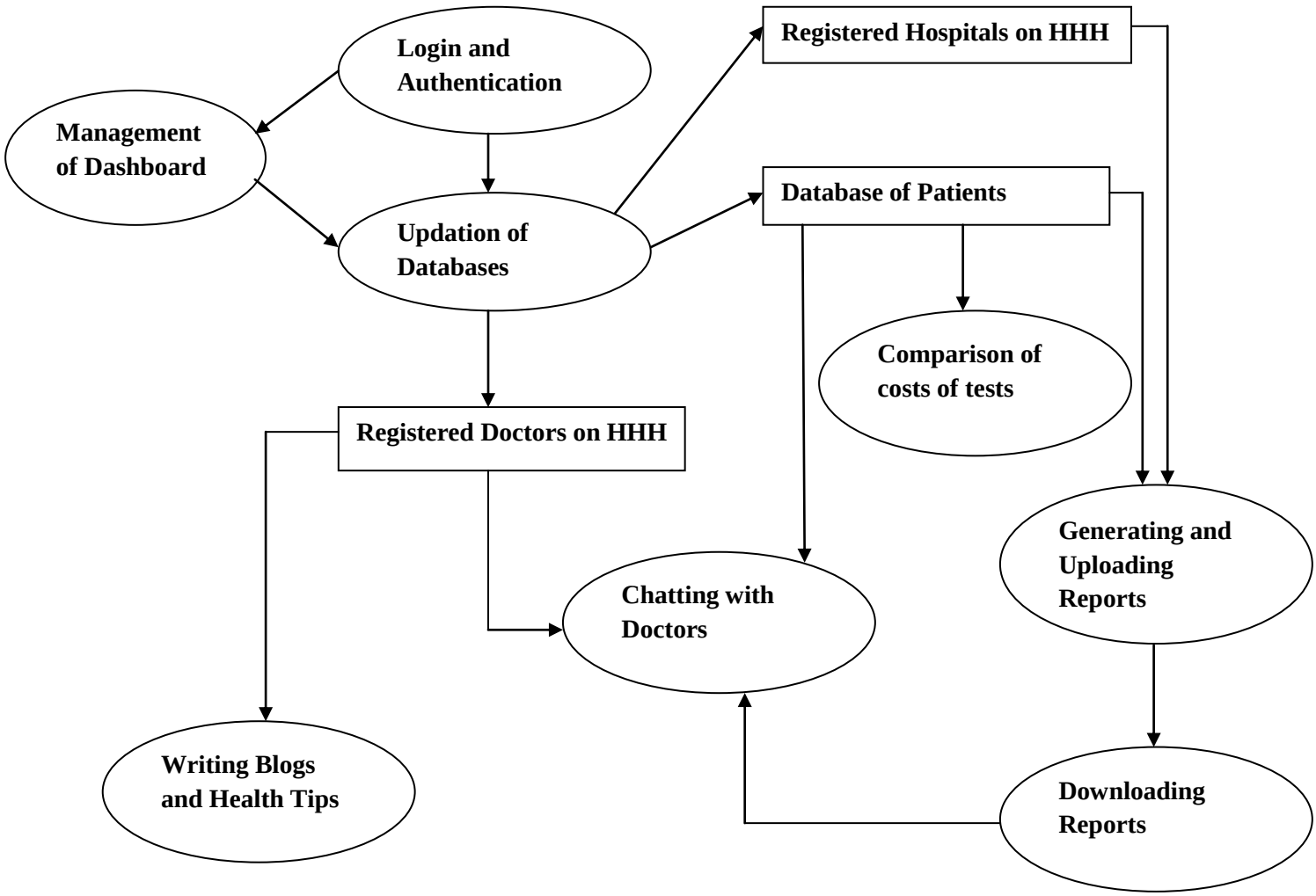

Figure. 3.10 : 1-Level Data Flow Diagram (DFD)