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Health Tech Rising Star Medopad Buys Patient-Tracking Rival Sherbit To Expand Stateside And Boost A.I.



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Sherbit CEO Alex Senemar and Medopad CEO Dan Vahdat. PHOTO VIA MEDOPAD

Medopad, a British health technology company that uses apps and wearables to monitor patient vital signs, has bought Sherbit, a rival startup in the U.S., to expand its footprint westward. Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

The deal is the latest example of consolidation by health tech startups—when you might expect to see such companies being hoovered up by bigger healthcare firms instead—and at a time when gathering anonymized patient data has become integral to building smarter algorithms that can help doctors make more accurate diagnoses. The greater the amount of data on offer, the higher the potential for training machine-learning algorithms that can predict a patient's future health.

Sherbit is based in San Francisco and makes money by selling subscriptions to hospitals, who can offer its app to patients and then remotely monitor their vital signs. They do so through blood pressure monitors, blood glucose monitors and wearable devices made by Fitbit and Apple to track steps, movement and sleep, according to Sherbit CEO Alex Senemar.

Remote monitoring services like this are not unusual, and Senemar estimates there are around 50 other companies globally that also offer the remote collection of data for healthcare providers. Some examples include uMotif in London or New York's LifeOnKey.

Such companies differentiate from one another through the clever analytics they can do on the data, and Medopad, the acquiring company, has a dedicated AI team that uses machine-learning techniques to glean predictive insights on the patient data it collects about potential diseases.

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The goal is "spotting any complications before they arise," Medopad CEO Dan Vahdat said in a press release. "Sherbit is the first step for us in the U.S."

London-based Medopad, founded in 2011, also has access to a wide breadth of health data [thanks to the clinical trials it runs in China](#), where it has worked with insurance giant Ping An, and multiple projects it has embarked on with Britain's National Health Service.

Earlier this year the company established an office at Johnson & Johnson's incubator JLABs in New York City. Medopad also raised \$28 million in a funding round in early 2018.

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