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Can smart sensor systems save the NHS?

Abstract. It is widely recognized that, given the present level of funding and under the present system of organization, the UK National Health Service (NHS) cannot adequately (according to its own criteria) meet the demands now being placed on it. One promising, hitherto underinvestigated, path out of the thicket is the introduction of advanced sensor technologies, initially deployed at the level of primary care, but ultimately by citizens themselves. Apart from their inherently low cost, the widespread adoption of such devices should, above all, facilitate early diagnosis of disease. Beyond that, they may be effective in promoting good health. Some pitfalls that may militate against the perceived benefits are presented and analysed.

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