Future Health 2050: Healthcare in a Digital World

As health systems around the world struggle to cope with a tsunami of threats and challenges, from ageing populations and rising levels of chronic disease to ageing physical infrastructure and an overstretched and burnt-out workforce, embracing the 'tech' revolution and digital transformation is critical for the long-term sustainability of global health services.

Digital applications, such as virtual care wards, digital imaging technology, patient engagement tools and AI-driven decision support and robotics, represent just the tip of the iceberg. Indeed, smart physical asset strategies that fully integrate OT, IT and IoT with medical and building infrastructure to improve clinical, operational and building performance are creating transformative opportunities.

In all aspects of society, the 21st century technological revolution is well underway, with people making decisions and choices about their lives digitally. They expect and demand the control and convenience that the digital world gives them. Yet many aspects of our health systems have failed to keep up and must now urgently adjust to a new environment that is fundamentally changing the relationship between empowered citizens and the health service.

At the same time, rapid advances in medical treatment, diagnostics and life sciences, in tandem with the artificial intelligence (AI) revolution, are set to radically reshape and transform patient care, with implications for how, when, what, where and by whom health and care services are provided.

This roundtable event, held in-person at the King’s Fund in London, brings together leading experts from across the health system to debate the opportunities, priorities and barriers to accelerating the digital transformation of our health services and healthcare infrastructure. While there will not be a live audience in attendance, we will be filming and streaming the roundtable event LIVE from the King’s Fund, and inviting questions and discussion from the virtual audience.

Meet the esteemed panel

Chair: Tina Nolan, Managing director, Lexica
Panel: Fiona Daly, National deputy director of estates, NHS England
Simon Bolton, Non-exec director, advisor and former chief executive, NHS Digital
Kevin Sureshkumar, Director, Spanswick
Dr Charlotte Refsum, Director of health policy, Tony Blair Institute
Dr Joe Zhang, Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College
Sarah Thomas, Digital director, New Hospital Programme
Professor James Barlow, Chair in technology and innovation management, Imperial College London Business School

In February 2024, the Future Hospital 2050 webinar series on innovation in healthcare planning and design will examine the role of digital applications in healthcare services that are being delivered now and in the future to 2050.

The LIVE streamed expert roundtable will be held on 13 February, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm (GMT) –

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Register now for free: To book your place on this free-to-view LIVE streamed round-table, or to receive a link to the recording, please register here. We look forward to your participation as we stimulate a new dialogue around the role of digital in shaping The Future of Health 2050.

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