

Healthcare systems are becoming more distributed, turning into smart and connected ecosystems of care

Building more hospitals is not the only way to meet the growing demand for affordable and accessible care. As the 2022 Philips Future Health Index report reveals, healthcare leaders now view extending care delivery beyond the hospital as their highest priority after staff satisfaction and retention.

Through smart and connected technology, healthcare providers can extend care delivery beyond hospital walls and bring it virtually or physically closer to the patient, at home or nearby in the community. Increasingly, we will see healthcare being delivered through a distributed network of ambulatory clinics, retail settings, mobile care solutions, and home-based monitoring.

What will make these ecosystems of care truly ‘smart’ is the ability to connect and integrate patient data across care settings – using artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), and cloud-based digital platforms to turn data into actionable insights, when and where they are needed.

Smart hospitals play a pivotal role in the smart and connected healthcare system of the future

Smart hospitals will be an essential part of the healthcare ecosystem of the future, but tomorrow’s hospital will no longer provide all services under a single roof. Instead, smart hospitals will focus on delivering a narrower set of highly specialized services, including diagnosis and treatment of acute, severe, and complicated conditions.

At the same time, hospitals will take a more prominent role in managing population health in the community and at home. The smart hospital of the future will not be bound by walls – it will offer seamless experiences that follow patients wherever they go.

A smart hospital, as we envision it, connects people, data, and technology in intelligent ways to improve operational efficiencies, deliver clinical excellence, and create seamless end-to-end patient experiences both within and beyond hospital walls – all of which need to be supported by new organizational capabilities to sustain digital innovation and create a culture of continuous improvement.