

Date	:	30/Jan/2017
Publication	:	Economic Times
Edition	:	Bengaluru
Media Type	:	Print

Tech-based Patient-tracking to Make Its Debut in State

Bharath.Joshi@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Technology will drive healthcare delivery in the future. To start with, Karnataka is adopting an electronic medical record system, allowing birth-to-death tracking of patients' health and preventive healthcare intervention in 15 primary health centres across eight districts.

The state's first patient-tracking mechanism in government healthcare institutions is in collaboration with Biocon Foundation, the CSR wing of the Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw-led pharma major. The project — called eLAJ — is to be launched at a PHC in Mallathahalli in west Bengaluru soon.

Under eLAJ, a multi-parameter monitor will record vitals (such as pulse, blood pressure and temperature) along with height, weight and personal details to create a virtual patient profile. This information, linked to a patient's Aadhaar, is available to the doctor for a diagnosis. Recommended lab tests are reflect-

THE eLAJ PROJECT

District	Number of PHCs	Towns
Tumakuru	2	Hebbur and Kuripalya
Bengaluru Urban	1	Mallathahalli
Bagalkot	3	Sulibhavi, Kaladgi and Pattadkal
Chikkaballapura	2	Yet to be identified
Shivamogga	2	Yet to be identified
Davangere	2	Yet to be identified
Dakshina Kannada	2	Ullal and Mani
Gadag	1	Betageri



ed on the lab technician's computer. The system also keeps track of the medicines prescribed and dispensed to a patient. As a result, the need for a doctor to depend on the patient and paperwork to know his/her medical history becomes unnecessary.

"eLAJ is a timely intervention because we are in the process of rolling out the e-Hospital initiative for smooth flow of data across hospitals.

It's a compact solution for our primary health centres," Health and Family Welfare principal secretary Shalini Rajneesh said. The success of eLAJ in Rajasthan caught the state government's attention, she said. The Foundation, which has been involved in the public health sector for the past 12 years, developed the eLAJ model in early 2015 when it

realised that there was insufficient data to plan evidence-based healthcare interventions.

In these 15 government PHCs, the Foundation will install eLAJ along with diagnostic equipment to ensure patients do not have to go elsewhere for clinical diagnoses, Biocon Foundation head Rani Desai said. "The 15 PHCs are chosen on the basis of high footfalls, which is 70 patients a day," she said.

"The system comes with a data dashboard to help authorities understand the disease profile of a community and plan evidence-based intervention," she said. For example, of the 12,000 patients registered on the eLAJ platform in the eight Foundation-run PHCs, 24% have high blood pressure and 57% are overweight. Such data can help plan specific interventions for the community.

The State Cabinet recently approved a free diagnostics project worth ₹103 crore, under which all government-run facilities will get diagnostic equipment.