

# National Digital Health Mission (‘NDHM’)



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# NDHM an Overview



On India's 74th Independence Day, the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) was launched under which every Indian (voluntary enrollment) will get a new Aadhar-like health ID that will

- store the individual's medical records,
- including doctor visits,
- diseases,
- the line of treatment and
- drugs taken.

The scheme will map every citizen's health with a unique ID. This will also come integrated with the facility of using telemedicine, e-pharmacy, creating a national health registry. From a doctor's appointment to hospitalization for any treatment, this ID will become essential.

The key feature of this mission is the technology part - it will leverage open digital systems to provide high-quality healthcare for all.

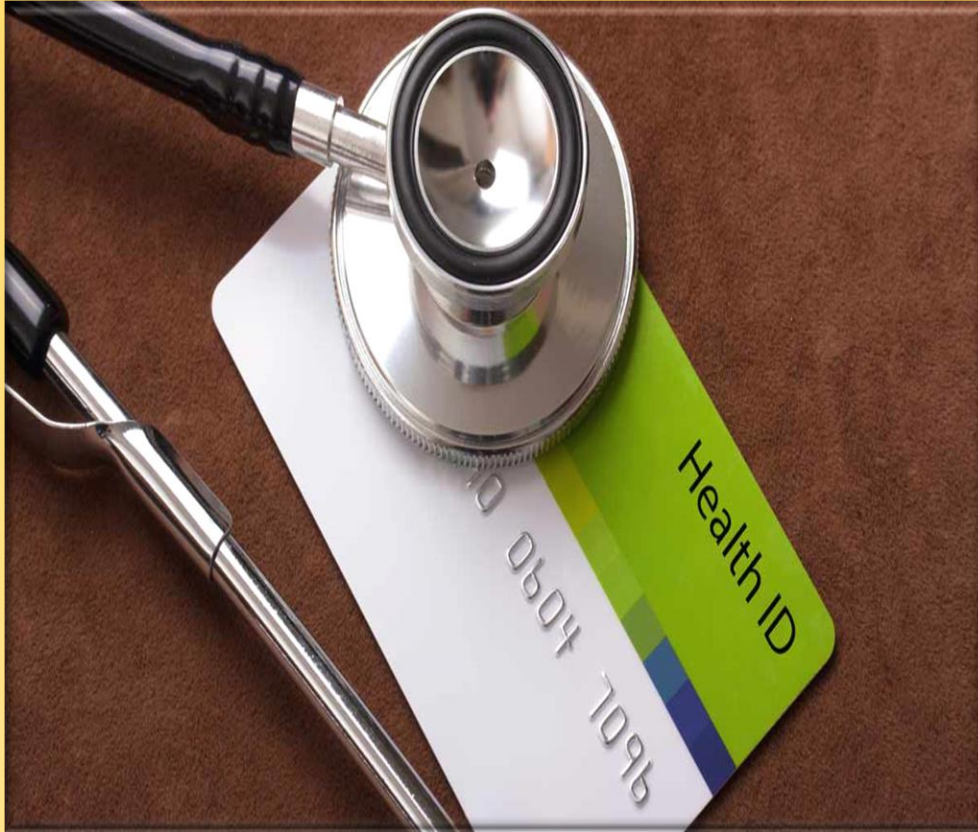
It will integrate various digital health services to create an ecosystem which can assimilate existing health information systems.

# The ID



- ❑ The digital health ID is a 14-digit number
- ❑ It can be generated on the website, [healthid.ndhm.gov.in](http://healthid.ndhm.gov.in),
- ❑ The pilots have been rolled out in six UTs — Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep, Ladakh and Puducherry
- ❑ There will be two options for generating it one by using Aadhaar and the other by using the phone number
- ❑ Once the 14-digit number has been generated, the system will also give an option to generate an alias. This will be similar to an email ID xyz@ndhm.in for example and a password. (This is to ensure ease of access and to do away with the need to memorise a long and random number)
- ❑ It is expected that hospitals, online pharmacies, telemedicine firms, laboratories and insurance companies will take part in the new system
- ❑ Additionally, it is hoped the digital health ID will reduce preventable errors and improve quality of care, while making it possible for users to easily view their own medical records

# NDHM progressive milestones



NDHM will be launched in various phases and government has announced the detail of Phase 1.

Five primary system that NDHM will show in its first phase are:

1. Health ID
2. Digi Doctor
3. Health Facility Registry
4. Personal Health Record (PHR)
5. Electronic Medical Records (EMR)



- ❑ The digital health ID come with a health locker that will have the option of storing health records in the cloud with the ownership lying with the individual.
- ❑ If an ID is generated at a health facility or during the enrolment of a person in a government health programme, the data from that programme will be available for the user.
- ❑ Subsequently, as more data gets generated and more and more hospitals and doctors come under the NDHM umbrella, the data stored in their servers for the individual will also get integrated, thus generating longitudinal health records
- ❑ There will also be the option of the individual uploading old paper records into the digital format for posterity.

# Data security...threat ?



- ❑ Although the government has issued assurances that personal data will be protected, and will only be shared with medical professionals once the user has given their consent, who remains the owner of the records ?
- ❑ There have been persistent questions about the privacy of stored health data. To address this, a National Policy on Security of Health Systems and Privacy of Personal Health Records will be developed, in accordance with the Personal Data Protection Bill 2019.
- ❑ According to the NDHM strategy document; the individual will be able to view the content of their health records via a web interface and a mobile application.
- ❑ Access will be provided only after the user authenticates using any of the authentication methods supported by the underlying Health ID.
- ❑ Sharing of health records must be enabled only with consent.
- ❑ Applications must follow the consent (time, access etc.) as given by the individual and related rules & regulations, which means that the primary custodian of all such data is the user, there will be an elaborate system which allows the person to grant access to those they desire should access their data.

# A word about .....



## the Author

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*Currently he is actively volunteering with a Swiss Pharma MNC as Frontline Corona Warrior. He is part of a team that is engaged on antibody testing as part of fight against COVID19. He has organised webinars on this new testing technique for Caerus3 Advisors & Think-Tank and is publishing Research papers on the #FightagainstCorona. In his free time he is an avid reader and social media influencer*

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