



**IET Future Tech Panel response to
consultation paper on healthcare
professionals registry (HPR)**

**Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India**

The Institution of Engineering and Technology

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IET Future Tech Panel response to the consultation paper on Healthcare Professionals Registry by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

At the outset, the IET would like to thank the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) for its continuing efforts in strengthening the health system of the country. The recommendations in this document are a response to the call issued by MoHFW for their consultation paper on Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR) published on June 22, 2021. This document lays out the opinions of the Healthcare Working Group of the IET Future Tech Panel. Since the call is to seek comments and consultation on the certain strategic and functional fundamentals of the HPR, it is only befitting that the interdisciplinary, neutral panel that we lead, reviews it from all standpoints and presents a comprehensive feedback.

IET Future Tech panel responses

Design

- 1) The registration flow seems robust, we would also recommend a cross referencing to digital sites like LinkedIn where many of the healthcare professionals already have exiting profiles.
- 2) We may need to clearly define who constitutes a healthcare professional- Doctors, Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA)
- 3) While the authentication of the entry would be done by the verifier, leveraging the government's databases for background verification would also be appropriate
- 4) There many doctors and healthcare professionals who work in the corporate world, we would recommend adding them to the registry as they bring in key skills around management, technology, policy and governance
- 5) Regular updates by pulling Application Programming Interface (APIs) from National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), Medical Council of India (MCI), Dental Council of India (DCI), Indian Medical Association (IMA), Indian Dental Association (IDA) and other medical and professional association registries
- 6) Ability to capture professional affiliations, CME programs, New Qualifications
- 7) Integration with the educational systems : Medical, Physiotherapy, Nursing colleges that run these courses makes it mandatory to register in this portal as well.

Risk and Security

- 1) Such a database of healthcare professionals will be an attractive target for cyber criminals; hence we recommend a robust system for red teaming, Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT) and pen testing for the system
- 2) We would also recommend that the system follow the guidelines around personal data protection as given part of the draft PDP bill, likely to be passed in the monsoon session of the parliament
- 3) Appointment of a data steward and data governance team to ensure that the right data is available to all

Incentives for healthcare professionals to enrol

- 1) Creation of integration with other facilities like flight manifests, travel, and others so that healthcare professionals can be identified in case of emergencies. This should be done via a gateway server integration to ensure that the sanctity of the data is maintained
- 2) Ability to participate in government programs based on their enrolment and areas of expertise.
- 3) Being part of local population Health Management programs as part of the enrolment

In conclusion, while the system for registry of healthcare professionals is step in the right direction; certain areas like enrolment, incentives to enrol and security need to be considered thoroughly before rolling out the scheme.

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