



Background:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is now being used in healthcare including to help spot health problems early. While AI can be very helpful, it also raises questions about who we allow to use our information.



Patrick's Story:

Patrick is 68 and has a heart condition. His doctor recommends a smartwatch that monitors his heart rhythm and activity levels including how many steps he has walked. The watch is linked to an app that uses AI to analyse the information and alerts Patrick if it spots anything irregular.

After a few weeks, the AI system flags some irregular heartbeats and recommends that Patrick schedule an urgent appointment with his doctor. Patrick does this and he is reassured - that the app has spotted the problem early.

During the appointment, the doctor prints out a report from the app. She says that further tests are needed. She explains that the AI analysis is helpful, but it doesn't replace her medical judgment.

Patrick is happy that a human doctor is making the final decision. But when he looks at the printed report, he notices that it includes information his doctor doesn't need - like places he has been and his phone number. Patrick isn't concerned about the doctor having this information but he wonders who else can see it. Where is it being stored? Who else might be able to use it?