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Artificial intelligence and the medical industry

Seven out of 10 startups listed as finalists in the [IBM Watson AI XPrize](#) competition are healthcare-related. The four-year international competition aims to demonstrate how humans can collaborate with artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to tackle some of the world's greatest challenges. Among the top 10: Amiko AI, which is developing a system that enables real-time monitoring of medication use and patient health to assist healthcare professionals and empower asthma patients to achieve better outcomes; Behavior, which is developing a platform that will combine data from wearables and smartphones into an early warning system to predict and prevent addiction relapses and overdoses, with an initial focus on opioids; and Deep Drug, which is developing a drug design software that learns from the successes and failures of previous clinical trials to shorten the developmental timeline of new drugs.

Young healthcare consumers: A new breed

Millennials, the generation that comprises 25 percent of the total U.S. population, check their phones on average 69 times every day, according to a survey of 1,000 patients surveyed by the Health Industry Distributors Association. More findings from the survey, as reported by [Physicians Practice](#), include: 1) millennials are more than twice as likely as older generations to search healthcare providers on third-party review sites like Yelp and Angie's List; almost 43 percent of millennials visited an urgent care center in the past year, and nearly 23 percent visited a retail health clinic; and 41 percent of millennials postponed seeking healthcare because they said it was expensive. Technology plays an integral role in helping millennials manage their well-being, from wearable devices to calorie-tracking apps to patient portals to online communities.

Device industry sustains body blow

A consortium of journalists released an investigative report that blames poorly regulated medical devices for millions of patient injuries and thousands of deaths, reports [Medical Device and Diagnostic Industry](#). The report, which is based on a year-long investigation by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), says that more than 1.7 million injuries and nearly 83,000 deaths linked to medical devices have been reported to FDA over the last decade. The journalists also point out that medical devices pulled off the market in some countries over safety concerns remain for sale in other countries. AdvaMed disputed the report. "We should never discount any patient's experience. But by magnifying the stories of only a few individuals, we overlook the overwhelmingly positive experiences of millions of others," the association said in a statement.

