Digital Transformation: Technically Feasible AND Ethically Justifiable?



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Digital Transformation Drivers

1

- Policymakers signal the need for more efficient, costeffective care to achieve the "triple aim"
- Incentivise the adoption of AI and Telehealth to achieve "P4 medicine"

2

- Investment in digital, data, AI industry booms
- Unvalidated, unregulated
 "solutions" flood the market

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- Technical 'epistemic' community gains influence
- Assumes 1st order change
- Pushes narrative regulation stifles innovation
- Encourages tech deterministic attitude



20th Century Model of Care

21st Century Model of Care

NOT "JUST" DATA-DRIVEN

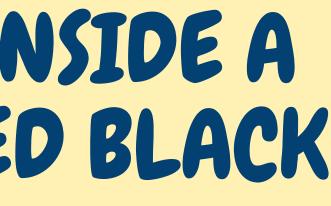
- •Evidence-Based •Patient-Centric
- **•**]:]
- •Narrow Trust
- Algorithm-Based Automated & 'Digital Twin Centric' •Many: Many Distributed Trust





THIS IS HAPPENING INSIDE A LARGELY UNGOVERNED BLACK BOX







All existing modes of Governance have been disrupted

The law is woefully outdated

Data protection law, medical device law, consumer protection law, discrimination law, liability law

Medical ethics are not fit-for-purpose

Medical ethics 1:1 not many:many Statistical accuracy is not clinical efficacy

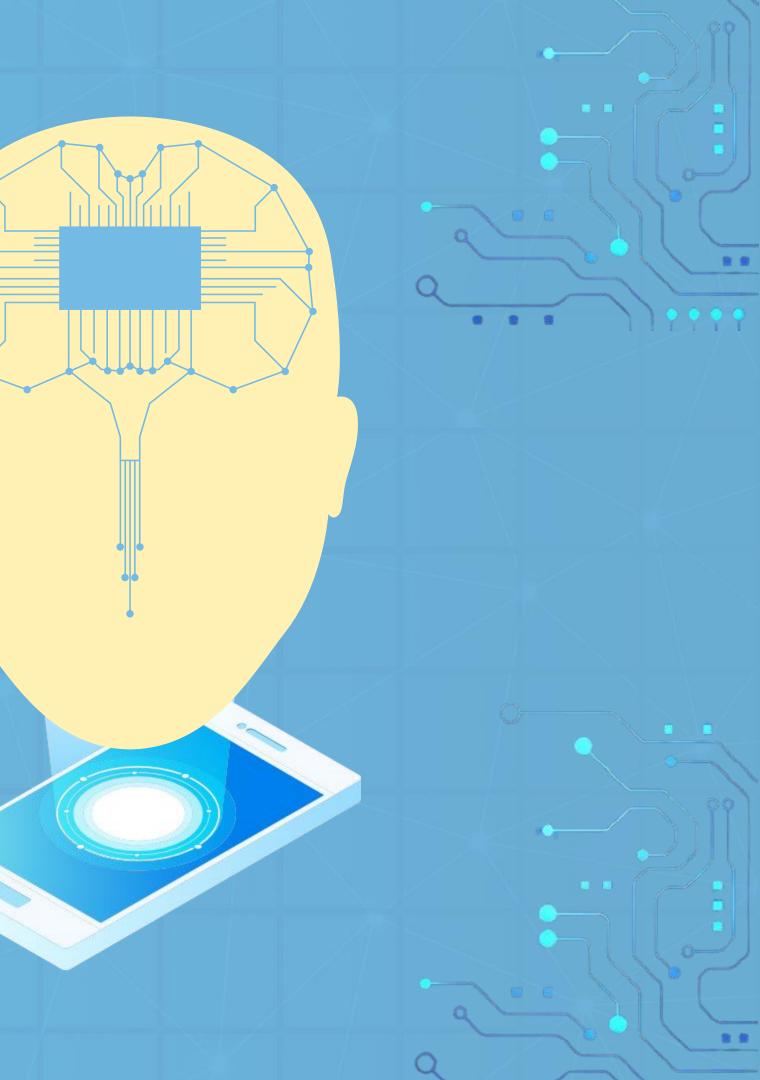
Necessary skills are lacking

Automation bias, loss of autonomy, no means of challenging 'decisions'





AND CAUSING A FUNDAMENTAL SHIFT





Why is this shift occurring?



OUTSOURCING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE BODY

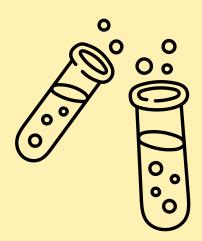
- Changing what counts as evidence of illness (and its absence)
- Undermining the right not to know



DISRUPTING THE FUNDAMENTALS OF CARE

- New power dynamics
- Devaluing the ethics of care
- Challenging accountability







UNIVERSAL COVERAGE =! EQUITABLE ACCESS

- Baked in existing bias
- New sources of bias

Creating the inverse data quality law

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The availability of high quality medical or social care data tends to vary inversely with the need of the population served.

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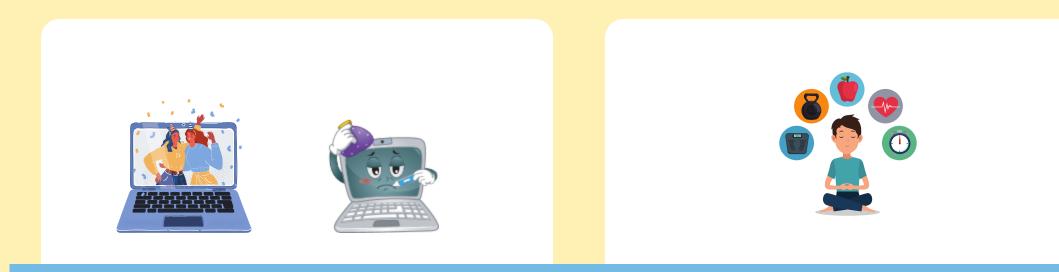
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The Consequence is Personalised Unwellness



TWO TIER SYSTEM

- Worried well
- Ignored sick

HEALTH =! ABSENCE OF ILLNESS

- A constant state of improvement
- Fuelled by private, algorithms & black-boxes
- Changing the dynamic of 'sick role'



CHANGING PATTERNS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- All become responsible for their own health
- Who can be a good patient?
- Who gains social health capital

To rebrand digital transformation, we must...

Recognise that the infosphere is a social determinant of health.

Recognise that digital health is public health not personalised health.







Focus the system's attention on information **Needs** rather than information **Wants**.



By paying attention to the quality of...

Indirect-to-Patient Information

- User-generated content inc social media
- Online information inc websites & targeted adverts

Direct-to-Patient Information

- Apps
- Wearables
- LLMs
- Personalised recommender systems

Indirect-to-Clinician Information

- Medical Research
- Medical Insurance

Direct-to-Clinician Information

- Medical recommender systems

Direct-to-Policy Information

- Public health surveillance
- Service analytics

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Clinical Decision Support Software





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