

The Future For Health

By Avik Khaneja - Sarah Nysten - Meg Cully - Stacy Bautista

SCANADU SCOUT

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Whether you're a Star Trek fan or not, Silicon Valley-based company Scanadu, has been attracting a lot of excitement towards their new product SCOUT, which has frequently been compared to the iconic Tricorder used in the previously mentioned American television series Star Trek. The company set out in June 2013 to raise a goal of \$100,000 through the crowd-funding platform Indiegogo and no more than a month later they received 16 times the original amount they intended to raise, reaping in \$1,661,988. While waiting for FDA approval, Scanadu looks to set the new standard for tracking consumer health and data collection, consequently reducing inefficiencies between patients, physicians and hospitals.

The vision is to create a licensing agreement between Scanadu and practice management company Allscripts, to create bilateral flexibility among patients and their physicians due to the nature of the SCOUT. At an expected starting price of \$199, the hockey puck sized device allows a user to scan their standard vitals in ten seconds and allows that data to be sent to their physicians from anywhere as long as they have Wi-Fi or Bluetooth accessibility.

The Scout features three sensors that provide data relating to heart function, blood pressure and temperature, all which can be read simultaneously in ten seconds. By holding the device between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand, the user presses the indented side to their left temple allowing a bio-circuit to be created from the electrodes associated with all three points of contact. The electrodes on the part that touch the head and the forefinger touch sensor simulate an electrocardiogram (ECG), which allows the heart rate and rhythm to be read. While this is happening, the infrared sensor is reading the users body temperature and the SP02 sensor is emitting a concentrated light

source through the tissue of the skin on the thumb – simulating a photoplethysmograph (PPG) indicating the saturation of oxygen in the blood. Lastly, an algorithm that measures the difference between the ECG and PPG waves calculates the blood pressure.



Scanadu Medical Scanner

With this product, Scanadu is eliminating the need for multiple medical devices such as blood pressure cuffs, thermometers, ECG machines, SP02 finger clips and more. The consolidation of multiple devices reduces inventory costs for hospitals and the user-friendly appeal allows patients to use it whenever they want. More importantly, patients no longer have to worry about physically making it to an appointment. One of the biggest problems in the health system today is finding a way to bridge physician and patient more efficiently. The Scanadu Scout provides consumer flexibility by cutting a thirty-minute appointment into a ten second evaluation. This is the future of medicine. The transparency of the device's function provides the patient with all the information a physician can see, allowing a more informational two-way street for communication.

A successful licensing agreement between Scanadu and Allscripts Health Insurance will set the new standard for the medical industry regarding patient and hospital connection. There is no question about the fact that any hospital that decides to sign on to this partnership will have differentiated itself from the competition. With the competitive advantage in their favor, it will be exciting to see what the company will come out with next.