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Smart health: A context-aware health paradigm within smart cities

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Abstract:
The new era of mobile health ushered in by the wide adoption of ubiquitous computing and mobile communications has brought opportunities for governments and companies to rethink their concept of healthcare. Simultaneously, the worldwide urbanization process represents a formidable challenge and attracts attention toward cities that are expected to gather higher populations and provide citizens with services in an efficient and human manner. These two trends have led to the appearance of mobile health and smart cities. In this article we introduce the new concept of smart health, which is the context-aware complement of mobile health within smart cities. We provide an overview of the main fields of knowledge that are involved in the process of building this new concept. Additionally, we discuss the main challenges and opportunities that s-Health would imply and provide a common ground for further research.

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Introduction

The adoption of information and communication technologies (ICT)
within the healthcare sector led to the concept of electronic health (e-
health), which is contributing to reduced costs and increased efficiency.

Following the consolidation of e-health, the generalized use of mobile
devices with positioning capabilities (e.g., smartphones) opened the
door to the idea of mobile health (m-health), which could be understood
as the delivery of healthcare services via mobile communication
devices. m-Health has extraordinary potential since it adds to the
advantages of e-health all the benefits related to the ubiquity of mobile
devices (i.e., global monitoring capabilities, wide availability, and
immediacy). Although significant advances have been made, m-health is
still in its early stages and is evolving in parallel to another very
promising concept: smart cities, which are also founded on ICT and aim
to tackle local problems, from local economy and transportation to
quality of life and e-governance.

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