The primary care clinic will have been largely reinvented by 2022. As small practices are incorporated into larger institutions, care teams will take on the role of primary care doctors. Patients will visit clinics only when their cases can’t be managed remotely due to complex comorbidities or chronic conditions out of control. A patient won’t have to do much describing of symptoms, as daily clinical and lifestyle data will be run through algorithms to create a unique, holistic, information-rich care plan that can be discussed with a care team. With diagnosis and treatment plans largely automated, the care team’s primary responsibility will be getting patients what they need in order to follow their care plans, including coaching.
CLINICAL primary care reinvented
Scheduled remote consultation physicians will be just one form of telehealth available to patients in 2022. Telehealth has the potential to connect patients to medical professionals around the globe and to enable institutions to manage resources more efficiently. Services will vary widely, depending on the regions’ medical regulations and insurance payment policies. Many telehealth interactions will be asynchronous. Apps and their linked sensors will provide ambient monitoring of patients and an alert process that begins with outreach and education, but will also notify physicians in case of emergency or serious medical issues. And ubiquitous programmable devices in the environment will make it possible for patients to receive context-specific automated messages from their care teams.
CLINICAL ubiquitous health interactions
The ability to consciously design physical spaces for desired outcomes will lead us to reimagine workspaces. Many will optimize their spaces for productivity or to reduce the health consequences of sedentary work by subtly changing sights, sounds, and even air to influence emotion. Detailed data on how spaces influence us and how we influence each other will inform the design of spaces to optimize social contact between workers, boost morale, and encourage collaboration and networking. Co-working spaces—where freelancers and workers with different employers congregate—will use real-time information on occupant needs and preferences, to offer benefits previously associated only with large companies, like leveraging group buying power for health benefits or even food services.
WORK optimized workspaces
The advent of mobile computing has increasingly made remote work possible for numerous white collar job functions. Over the next decade, this trend will accelerate as Internet connections become available almost anywhere, mobile computers become more powerful, and batteries become longer-lived and wirelessly charged. Advances in telepresence and online collaborative tools will close the gap between calling in or physically showing up at the office. While access to work tools and work communications at all hours of the day will continue to create an atmosphere in which many workers are always on, growing health concerns will lead to the creation of disconnected digital refuges and other innovations to manage work–life balance.
WORK anytime, anyplace work
Emerging participatory tools and platforms will lead apartment dwellers to see themselves as members of a collective. Leading-edge practices around sharing knowledge, tools, and other resources with neighbors will become more popular. While sensors to track people’s health states will be available for residences of all kinds, the data they generate will be used differently in large apartment complexes. Apartment residents will employ this data to get a collective understanding of a building’s health, compare energy usage, and alert each other to health and safety issues. In some locations, residents will even begin to make decisions collectively, such as choosing to purchase services or retrofits as a group, or making requests for building management.
HOME the connected apartment
Over the next decade, many diagnostics and consultations will increasingly move away from the clinic and into the home. Telemedicine consultation from home will become more common, and at-home testing devices to identify everything from blood glucose and cholesterol levels to sleep apnea will become more powerful. Embedded sensors will make the bathroom a site for daily checkups, and smart mirrors may serve for many people as their central health information display. These technological advances will bring most functions of the clinic into the home and, in some cases, will remove the health system from the picture.
HOME the home health center
By 2022, the way people navigate their environment will be transformed by a ubiquitous layering of digital information on the physical world. Thanks to cheap sensors and citizen contributions, people will be able to see detailed information about businesses, as well as public spaces like parks and playgrounds, as they move through them or pass them on the street. This digital layer will not be limited to technical information or health statistics. Many people will make their own personal or collective contributions to the information layer of specific places, relating history or telling stories of the space, or in some cases creating completely new narratives of place.

ON-THE-GO the digital information layer
ON-THE-GO the digital information layer
The convergence of key enabling technologies will put self-driving cars on the road within the next decade. The change will be incremental, both in terms of social acceptance and supporting laws and infrastructures, but once fully implemented, automated mobility will have enormous implications. These cars will let drivers reclaim the 250 hours typically spent behind the wheel each year. Some will begin using commutes to squeeze in extra work hours, like mass transit commuters do; others will use the alone time for health and well-being practices, even making the car a designated space for daily mindfulness meditation. Independent travel will become an option for the blind or those with physical limitations.
ON-THE-GO self-driving cars
By 2022, more consumers will engage with an even wider array of alternatives to physical retail spaces. Many will hire crowdsourced concierges to pick up their groceries or use subscription services for commodity goods like socks, razors, or standard food ingredients like eggs and milk. As fewer purchases are made in a traditional retail setting, shopping will become more deliberate for many people. Without the temptation of calorie-filled impulse buys, shoppers will have an easier time keeping purchases consistent with health and well-being goals. In some cases, people will choose not to select items individually, but will instead order or subscribe to recipe kits and other sets of products that meet their health or sustainability goals, or resonate with their cultural identity.
RETAIL automated shopping systems
The average supermarket already collects massive amounts of point-of-sale data with each purchase. Over the next decade, as this data is increasingly combined with other data sets—sensor data, insurance profiles, even electronic health records, where regulations allow it—new consumer shopping strategies will emerge. For some, the supermarket will become a site for secrecy, a place to shop for desired items while avoiding information capture about any purchases that may impact health insurance or employment records. Others will feel a more customized experience is worth the trade-off and delight in using new tools to calculate the health and well-being impact of potential purchases.
RETAIL data-driven supermarkets