D3: DELIVERING DIGITAL DRUGS www.digital-drugs.org Research Protocol

Valentina Lichtner On behalf of the D3 team LSE, 19 May 2015

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Brunel University

UCL



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The Health Foundation

nspiring Imbrovement

Professor Nick Barber

The Health Foundation

Overview

- Drugs going digital: how we understand this
- How we research it: method and language (a 'protocol')
- Some reflections and future work

Introducing Digital Drugs...

- Our concern is with the changing nature of medical drugs (medicines) as they become encrusted with digital features and embedded in new data ecosystems.
- We ask *how, where* and *for whom* the digitalisation of the chain of supply and consumption of medical drugs (medicines) may create or add *value*, and the new or changed *work practices* and *business models* that develop.

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Background

- Drugs and digitalisation
 - Active molecule, material delivery systems, informational resources for legitimation and use
 - Their use set within complex and elaborated work practices and institutional arrangements
 - The new Digital Drugs are just more so
 - Dependent on and substantially constituted by multiple digital representations and connections, with use and effectiveness strongly mediated through digital means.

Background

- A healthcare 'imperative'
 - Our healthcare is built on using medicines a primary means of providing care and a primary source of cost
 - Current expectations of new drugs, and of better ways to use the ones we have; more effect for less cost
 - A over a decade of digitization of drug-use data and related ICT systems e.g. electronic prescribing with decision support, robotic dispensing, prescription transmission, adherence technologies
 - More opportunities ahead: EHRs at scale, pharmacovigilance, \$10 genome, stratified and personalised medicines etc.

Theoretical Propositions (Hypotheses)

- 1. digitalisation is changing the materiality of the drug
- 2. digitalisation is changing the value of the drug
- 3. digitalisation is changing the assemblages that occur around and involving the drug
- 4. the drug is (or becoming, or returning to be?) an 'incomplete product'; the drug is (or is becoming) entangled with the digital, as a 'digital hybrid'



Theoretical influences

- Changing as a sociomaterial process (Petrakaki, Cornford et al. 2010)
- *Digital materiality* enmeshed within work practices (e.g. (Leonardi 2010, Yoo 2012))
- Assemblages a question of emergence (emergent properties, generativity) in open systems – "the always-emergent conditions of the present" (Marcus and Saka 2006, De Landa 2002).
- *Digital business models* and their narrative and performative roles in mobilizing and explaining change (Christensen, Grossman et al. 2009)





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Conceptual foundations

- *Digitization*: information that moves from analog to digital form (data) or when new digital data sources become available
- *Datafication*: the process of accumulation of these data and their multiple repurposing (as in, but not restricted to, Big Data); volume, velocity, variety.
- Digitalization: the wider sociotechnical changing associated to both (the subsequent reconfigurations of the socio-technical context of production and consumption of the associated products and services) – a socio-digital reconfiguring?
- Agency migration: the changing in how agency is (re)distributed as digitalisation occurs



Study design: follow-the-drug in a multi-episode study



Why Episodes?

- to reflect that drugs become digital incrementally and cumulatively through multiple transitions occurring in different places and times
- resonates with the temporal/historical nature of processes of digitalisation
- reminds us that studies of change (before-after studies) are but snapshots in a longer timeframe – a longer becoming
- to distinguish our study design from the more traditional case study research (Yin 2003)

Research Protocol



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Research Protocol



FIGURE 1.8. The front cover illustration of a cancer clinical trials publication, showing the central place occupied by the protocol. Reprinted from S. P. L. Leong, *Cancer Clinical Trials: Proactive Strategies* (New York: Springer, 2007), with kind permission of Springer Science+Business Media, and the Coalition of Cancer Cooperative Groups © 2002.

The term *protocol* originated in Medieval Latin where it referred to the first (proto) paper sheet glued (kolla) to the top of the minutes of public transactions and that outlined the contents of the resulting volume. As chronicled in the OED, the semantic field of the term has since undergone considerable extension, leading to the present-day scientific and clinical meanings that include the list of the successive steps of an experiment, the outline of a planned examination, or the agreed-upon schedule of chemotherapeutic drugs and dosages. The term thus has multiple meanings referring simultaneously to a legal authority, since its content is binding on the participating parties; a convention, for it is the result of a transaction between participants; a public, because as a communal document it is open to inspection by interested individuals or, at least, overseeing agencies and organizations; a prescription, since it dictates both the activities that have to be undertaken by participants and how they should be performed; and, finally, a description, insofar as it acts as a record of what has been done (see also Lynch, 2002).

> Keating, P. and A. Cambrosio (2012) Cancer on trial: oncology as a new style of practice, University of Chicago Press. P25-26



What's next? Maps and mapping

Maps and mapping

Rose, N. (2007). The politics of life itself: Biomedicine, power, and subjectivity in the twenty-first century, Princeton University Press



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Maps and mapping

Mol, A. (2002). The body multiple: Ontology in medical practice, Duke University Press.





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Maps and mapping

"... facilitate the management and navigation through major public policy issues. These maps have benefits for policy analysts and decision-makers similar to those of geographic maps.

They provide patterned abstractions of policy landscapes that permit the decision-makers and their advisors to consider which roads to take within the wider policy context.

....

Horn, R. (2001). Knowledge Mapping for Complex Social Messes. http://www.stanford.edu/~rhorn/SpchPackard.html.

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Conclusion

- Next steps: access to sites, research in the field...
- Analysis mapping and modelling ...

Conclusions

- The process of developing the protocol : collaborative, informative and generative
- Asking questions to ourselves, provoked clarification of concepts
- Inspired writing and contributed to the LSE Research Festival poster



LSE Research Festival Exhibition 21 May 2015, 5.30-8.30pm Lower ground floor, New Academic Building, LSE







Digital Drugs: noun, pl.,

drugs that are dependent on and substantially constituted by multiple digital representations and connections, and whose use and effectiveness is strongly mediated through digital means [1]

Medicines and Drugs are hybrids, part active molecule, part delivery system, part packaging and instructions, and embody protocols of use and afford work practices. They are also becoming in part digital - they are digitizing [2]. Their agency as artefacts (their material agency), in particlar their therapeutic potential, draws on digitised data and is applied through digitalised protocols.

From the supply chain, through clinical work and patients' bodies, to post-use data repositories and in structures of regulation, to follow a drug is to tell a story of material artefacts (devices, objects) and of chemical actions in biological milieu. But it is also a story of digital materiality and digital agency.

As a hybrid digital artefact a drug is constituted within, and an expression of, multiple digital reresentations and inter-connections. From the in-silico scie nce of drug discovery, and testing procedures of randomised control trials, a drug is embodied as digital data.

And the digital sedimentations continue once a drug becomes a licensed product and moves to manufacture and then use. The people and groups who work with and use drugs (e.g. of us) are drawn in to the digit al sphere and shape new practices of medicines use, individually and system wide.

In this way digitalization implies new and novel architectures of value creation, realization and capture - new business models. These are expressed in reconfigurations of the socio-technical and economic context of medicines within healthcare; as value propositions, as products and increasingly services, as therapeutic agents, as the locus of innovation and as new forms of regulation.

Delivering Digital Drugs (D3) is a project funded by Research Councils UK as part of the 'New Economic Models in the Digital Economy' programme. RC grant reference EP/L021188/1

This poster was prepared by: lane Dickson, Tony Cornford, Ralph Hibberd, Ela Klecun and Will Venters from LSE and Valentina Lichtner from Leeds University

Hospital **Prescribing and** Administration

support, personalised /

HARMACOPFIA

Patient Centred Medicines

patients as active participants in their medicines including devices and reminder / adherence systems

Brunel

University

Medicine Safety (Pharmacovigilance)

including surveillance systems that combine patient data, active reporting, social networks research studies

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TELEMEALTH



Anti-conterfeiting including the use of

medicines unique serial numbers. 2D bar codes and other integrity / safety features

Following Drugs: A primary aim of the Delivering Digital Drugs project is to reveal the multiple and interconnected locations and transitions by which drugs become digital.

The research method is to 'follow the drug' and thereby map processes of digitalization and transition that accumulate a drug's digital materiality. Our interest is the drug as (digital) artefact set in the context of its use. We start from the factory where a product is made and follow it into the clinic, into and out of bodies, and on wards as consequence or outcome. As we follow a drug we see digitalization occurring in different settings - what we term 'episodes of digitalization'. Research

Data Services

collecting data for management and commissioning

The word episode is chosen to reflect that drugs become digital cumulatively through multiple transitions occur ring in different places and times.

The 5 episodes under study are: anti counterfeiting; hospital prescribing and administration; patient centred medicine; drug safety (pharmacovigilance) and research data service (big data).

Each episode reflects a new entanglement in the relationship between material and virtual aspects and between medicinal product/artefact (drug) and medicinal practice (medicine).

Episodes of digitalization, for example a hospital doctor pre scribing using a computer, or a secure bar code being read to prevent counterfeiting, can be described in terms of: digitization (data that moves from analog to digital form), datafication (accumulation of data and its multiple repurposing), and agency migration (agency moving to the digital).

Episodes are situations in which a drug's therapeutic value is generated, realized and captured through digital means. We use the concept of a business model as a way of expressing a value architecture but we apply the concept not to the firm, but to the drug and to the value architecture that it embodies and which is significantly influenced by digitalization.

Thus we seek the healthcare logic of a specific practice, the value proposition it makes and to whom and the mobilization of resources and establishment of processes that it requires [3].

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(2) Yoo, Y. (2012) Objital Materiality and the Emergence of an Evolutionary Science of the Artificial. In: Learnard, P. Nardi, B. Kallinkos, J. (eds.) Materiality and Organizing: Social (2) Yoo Y, (2012) Unjunt watersamp and the chereformed of an exotropolary science of the Artifician in a Technological World, pp. 134-154. Oxford University Press, Oxford [3] Christenees, C.M. Grossman, J.H. and Hwang, J (2009) The Innovator's Prescription: A Disruptive Solution for Health Care. McGraw Hill, New York



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Conclusions

- How do we understand digitalisation?
- How do we study it?

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