

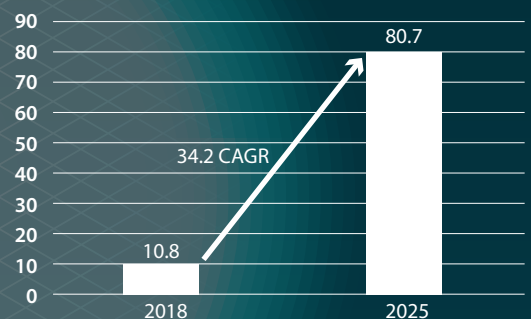
Remote Care Management In Asia-Pacific

We've made great progress, but still much more work to be done

It's no secret that the COVID-19 pandemic, despite the many challenges faced, was a boom for digitization of the healthcare industry. This is especially true in Asia Pacific, which desperately needed to unlock more innovative, cost-effective care models while leveraging the great technology leapfrogging that has already been occurring in the region.



Asia Pacific Digital Health Market size was valued at USD 10.8 billion in 2018 and is expected to witness 34.2% CAGR up to 2025.



Asia Pacific Digital Health Market, 2018 & 2025 (USD Bn)

Leading up to the second annual APACMed Digital Health Symposium taking place on June 9th under a theme of "Future of Patient Care – Remote Care Management", I wanted to reflect on the journey thus far as well as how I see the road ahead. In particular, I will emphasize themes related to the emergence of Remote Care Management (RCM).

Digital Health

Indirect patient care services

Precision Medicine

- DNA sequencing
- 3D bio-printing
- Health data analytics

Health IT infrastructure

- Clinical information system health information management
- Enterprise image management
- EHR

Workflow / automation

- RFID-tracking
- Process automation through robotics
- Vital parameter tracking
- Barcoding medication administration
- Hospital logistics robotics
- Nurse mobile connectivity
- e-Referrals

Patient-facing services

Remote Care Management

Patient self-care

- Chronic disease management tools
- Medical chatbots
- Disease prevention tools
- Patient support networks
- Digital diagnostic tools
- Virtual reality care

Online interactions

- Tele-consultation
- Patient remote monitoring
- e-Triage

Our Remote Care Management activities and achievements have set a good tone

APACMed's Digital Health Committee was established during the heart of the pandemic in 2020. The committee has since driven several key initiatives including Remote Care Management.

The WHO has officially recognized RCM in its Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020-2025, which pertains to the interaction between patients and care providers outside of the conventional clinical settings, utilizing novel solutions such as telemedicine, wearables, monitoring platforms, chatbots, and connected medical devices. RCM has demonstrated its value during the pandemic. It has limited unnecessary contacts between patients and doctors, thus reducing the risk of contracting the virus, whilst still providing patients with the care they needed.

Nevertheless, there are still many challenges to overcome to optimise RCM adoption. In the context of the RCM series, we decided to focus on reimbursement and monetization as a key enabler. If a new care model is not sustainable financially, then it will not last long or scale. Despite the fast development during COVID-19, reimbursement remains a key challenge for RCM, limiting its integration across the patient journey, and its widespread adoption. This ultimately results in suboptimal access to patients, and low affordability for the health system in general.

Through the RCM series, we aimed at sharing knowledge and advocating for policies that enable better reimbursement to innovating RCM technologies, with the objective of increasing access to patients. We started with a [Digital Health Symposium](#) in May 2021, bringing together international and regional leaders from the medtech private sector. They shared best practices and gaps in RCM, and discussed how Asia can accelerate the implementation of remote care solutions. More than 700 stakeholders representing 26 countries and across various segments of the medtech industry ecosystem, convened to look at RCM models being deployed in Germany and China, as well as further use cases from Asia which concurrently outlined the desired plans for change.

We continued the RCM series with several closed-door dialogues with APAC governments, to discuss current state of remote care reimbursement policies, future plans and the challenges ahead.

The key learnings from the sessions with private and public stakeholders, together with perspectives and next steps, are the object of the ["Pathways to Innovation: Advancing Remote Healthcare During & Post COVID-19" whitepaper](#). The paper provides the context for RCM in the Asia Pacific, successful use cases (and learnings therein), as well as policy calls-to-action to bring more life-saving RCM solutions to patients.



And yet, Remote Care Management rollout is far from over

While I am proud of these achievements, they were really only the first step. A number of commitments about activation of RCM in Asia Pacific, public and private sector alike, have been made and now must be monitored to ensure delivery. Areas such as regulation and reimbursement of RCM solutions require discussions amongst a wider set of stakeholders, especially as the technologies and use cases evolve, while ensuring that we remain true to our north star of leaving no one behind in the process. In particular, there is a need to demonstrate the value that RCM brings not only to healthcare professionals and providers, but to patients, caregivers, employers, health systems, and the wider society as a whole. In this perspective, the impact of RCM on clinical and financial elements needs to be measured and highlighted, together with implications to additional elements such as the quality of life, ability to go back to work, reduced burden on HCPs and caregivers, etc.

For 2022, I have three ambitions related to our RCM efforts in the Asia Pacific:

The Healthcare Provider Experience

Describe how HCPs and providers can work better thanks to RCM.

The Patient & Caregiver Experience

Demonstrate the value RCM creates for patients, and what is still not working despite promises.

The Wider Society Experience

Discuss the impact of RCM on the healthcare system and the benefit brought to the entire society.



In line with the prioritised ambitions, during the second edition of the Symposium we will give voice to health-care professionals, providers, patients, caregivers, experts and policymakers.

Please do join us at the second annual APACMed Digital Health Symposium, taking place on June 9th in Singapore (with virtual join options available), as we continue to discuss the RCM theme and to live out our commitments.

Further details and registration can be found at:

<https://apacmed.org/the-future-of-patient-care-symposium/>



Roberta Sarno is the Head of Digital Health for APACMed, the trade organization for medtech in the Asia-Pacific region. Roberta has driven the creation of a multi-stakeholder Digital Health Committee at APACMed since 2020, across a number of key themes such as regulation, reimbursement, and interoperability. She has more 12 years' experience in the biomedical sciences industry, and has a PhD in Genetics from Pierre & Marie Curie University.

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