



Wearables Weekly

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In this week's edition: updated devices from Garmin, a noteworthy health related acquisition by IBM, and another corporate partnership involving a wearables startup. Beyond wearables, there are a lot of questions about Silicon Valley's troubles in healthcare. Read the latest below!

[Garmin's latest wearables know what sport you're playing](#)

The new Vivoactive HR sports watch and Vivofit 3 activity tracker by Garmin includes updates in both design and features. The biggest updates to the Vivoactive HR smartwatch are heart rate monitoring and a complete makeover from its original chunky square design. The new Move IQ feature detects walking, running, biking, swimming or elliptical training, tracking activities without the need to start a timed activity. The software also includes Connect IQ, which gives health and wellness tips and alerts users when they have met their goals.

Importance: The new devices include notable updates to both hardware and software design. Both are important to engaging consumers in an increasingly saturated market.

[IBM acquiring Truven Health Analytics and adding it to Watson Health](#)

IBM announced that it is buying Truven Health Analytics for \$2.6 billion. This is the fourth major acquisition for Watson Health since the unit was established by the purchase of Phytel and Explorys in 2014. In August 2015, IBM acquired Merge Healthcare to give the company access to a huge store of imaging data. The Truven acquisition gives IBM a trove of cost, claims, quality, and outcomes data.

Importance: IBM continues to work towards building a comprehensive health data ecosystem for Watson Health. Integrating data from diverse sources will help the company unlock insights for stakeholders across the industry.

[Wearables developer collaborates with Walgreens for Balance rewards program](#)

Walgreens and Lumo Bodytech have announced a partnership to incorporate Lumo's wearable device into the Walgreens wellness program. The Lumo Lift is a small device that clips onto a shirt and vibrates when users are slouching. It is meant to improve posture and prevent back pain, which is the most common source of workplace injury claims for people under 45 years old. Lumo uses Validic to aggregate and integrate user data from its devices so the information can be viewed in context with other activities.

Importance: Wearables companies are increasingly looking to corporate partnerships to expand business. Meanwhile, wellness programs are becoming more holistic in their health promotion strategies, incorporating technologies that move beyond tracking steps and activity.

Other Health Technology Headlines

[Bosses tap outside firms to predict which workers might get sick](#)

[Dear Silicon Valley: there are no shortcuts in health care](#)

[Google bets on health: 'The most you can lose is all your money'](#)

[Has Silicon Valley Met Its Waterloo In Health Care?](#)

[How effective is your sleep tracker?](#)

[How will wearables impact the consumer healthcare marketplace?](#)

[The new face of behavior change](#)