

## Blackberry to launch a healthcare service platform

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As per reports, Blackberry, in partnership with US-based healthcare technology firm NantHealth, will soon announce the launch of a connected healthcare service, which will integrate thousands of medical devices to enable early detection of illnesses.

The NantHealth platform is currently installed in about 250 hospitals globally, and connects more than 16,000 medical devices, collecting more than 3 billion vital signs annually.

"Work has started on it but we have not finalized an official launch date," said Mr Sunil Lalvani, managing director, BlackBerry India. He added, "We are running trials in multiple hospitals. The trial includes integration with different hospital information systems as well as various medical equipment."

Healthcare providers in India are expected to spend \$1.08 billion (about Rs 6,400 crore) on IT products and services in 2014, a 4 percent increase from the previous year.

NantHealth's Clinical Operating System (cOS) platform integrates the knowledge base with the delivery and payment systems, and with BlackBerry's QNX embedded technology, it combines secure cloud-based and supercomputing services to provide data integration, decision support and analytics.

BlackBerry bought a minority stake in the privately held NantHealth in April. This gives them an entry into the connected

healthcare space. Medical equipment, such as scanners, dopplers and ECG machines, are among thousands of medical devices that can be integrated using cOS along with BlackBerry's QNX. QNX, bought by BlackBerry in 2010, is an operating system, which the company used as a foundation for its revamped BB10 platform.