

THE CONING A TRANSFORMATION IN HOME HEALTHCARE

by Ron Galloway & ClaudeAl



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Revolutions sneak up on us. Seismic changes accumulate over years and then reach an inflection point, bursting into public consciousness. According to technologist and author <u>Ron</u> <u>Galloway</u>, artificial intelligence has hit this tipping point.

In a recent presentation at the <u>Home Care Innovation Forum</u>, Galloway laid out a compelling case that Al is set to disrupt home healthcare. How will this transformation unfold?

The Al revolution has been slowly building for decades...



The Digitization of Health Records

First, the digitization of health records beginning in the late 2000s organized patient information as structured data, enabling analysis like never before.



Breakthroughs in Machine Learning

Second, breakthroughs in machine learning allowed algorithms to spot patterns and make predictions beyond human capacity.



The Emergence of Generative AI

And third, the emergence of generative Al–like ChatGPT–that can synthesize novel insights heralds a new paradigm.



for Al's inevitable expansion into caregiving

Al-guided Treatment Plans

CMS will approve Al-guided treatment plans within five years.

2 Certified Al Home Health Aides

Specially certified "Al home health aides" will emerge.



Nurses Partnering with Al

Nurses will take on expanded roles partnering with Al.

High-Impact Applications

These changes already simmer below the surface. Nursing students receive little AI education, yet will soon collaborate with algorithms daily. In Britain, an AI system monitors homebound seniors and summons help during health crises. And AI shows remarkable accuracy at diagnosing certain illnesses.

How specifically will Al alter home healthcare? Galloway highlighted numerous high-impact applications:

1 Wound Care Management

Wound care management is one area ripe for Al support. Smartphone cameras and algorithms can already assess wounds and guide treatment responses. For isolated seniors, this use case could be lifesaving.

2 Patient Relationship Matching

Patient relationship matching will leverage Al to pair clients with compatible caregivers. Factors like language, ethnicity, personality strengths, and more can be optimized to improve rapport.

3 Physical Therapy

Physical therapy can be customized by analyzing a patient's mobility patterns via smartwatches and sensors. The Al detects gait irregularities and deteriorating balance to modify exercise regimens.

4 Mining Electronic Health Records

By mining electronic health records, Al can forecast patient needs before they become urgent. Early interventions can stave off ER visits and rehospitalizations.





5 Chatbots

Chatbots offer companionship and mental stimulation for homebound seniors through interactive conversations that keep minds engaged. This application counters isolation and depression.

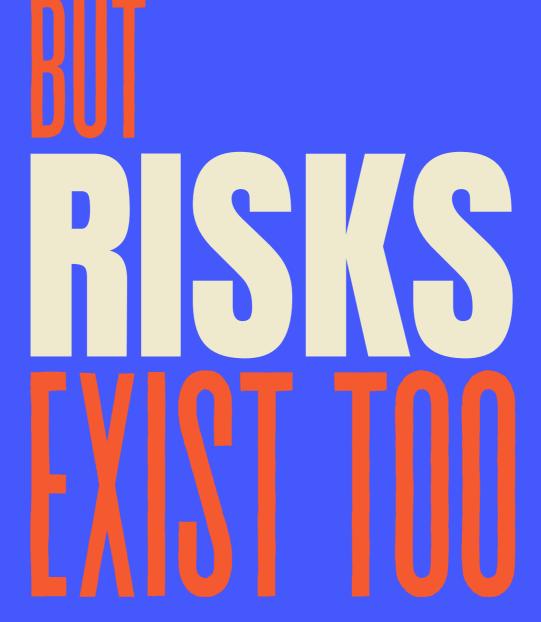
Dementia Care

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In dementia care, AI can create individualized auditory landscapes using music, audio clips, and speech to immerse patients in comforting, familiar sound environments.

7 Robotic Technologies

Robotic technologies can assist elderly patients with household tasks, hygiene care, and mobility. Smart home systems monitor well-being and send alerts during emergencies. Al shows tremendous potential to enhance home healthcare.



How do we steer this technology toward empowering, not controlling, vulnerable populations?

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1 Elevate Care Workers' Tech Skills

First, invest now in elevating care workers' tech skills. Make Al fluency standard in nursing education. We cannot afford to leave our healthcare workforce behind.

2 Keep Refining Data Inputs

Second, keep refining data inputs. Thoughtful oversight is required to check biases and correct inaccuracies. Precision medicine needs precision data.

3 Start Small but Start Today

And third, start small but start today. Run controlled pilots to judge value before pursuing system-wide integration. Let successes flourish.



THE ALTIPPING POINT FOR HOME HEALTHCARE HAS ARRIVED

Soon we'll wonder how we ever practiced without it. But this future depends on laying the proper foundation today.

Revolutions are rarely anticipated. But looking back, their emergence seems predictable. The end of isolation for homebound patients once seemed a distant dream. Al can make it reality, if we have the foresight to guide its course. The transformation of home healthcare is imminent—are we prepared to reshape it for the good?

Home Care Innovation Forum

We'll be discussing AI and more at the 2024 <u>Home Care Innovation Forum</u>.

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