

Medical tech milestones since 1950.

1952

First electric wheelchair introduced.

Canadian [George Klein](#) invents the world's first electric wheelchair to improve quality of life for quadriplegic patients.



1958

Pacemaker extends life.

Cardiologist Dr. Seymour Furman uses a [large version of the pacemaker](#) to extend the life of patients with heart problems. By 1959, portable versions become available.

1961

Stem cells discovered for bone marrow transplantation.

Canadian doctors James E. Till and Ernest A. McCulloch [discover the hematopoietic stem cell](#), the basis for bone marrow transplants.

Early 1970s

Electronic medical records actively adopted.

The [U.S. government](#) begins using [electronic medical records \(EMRs\)](#), known at the time as electronic health records (EHRs). In the '80s and onwards, efforts to continue the adoption of EMRs increase.

1971

CT scanners put to use.

The [first commercial CT scanner](#), developed by Dr. Godfrey Hounsfield, is used on a patient in London.



1968

Medical record system revamped.

Dr. Lawrence Weed introduces the [problem-oriented medical record \(POMR\)](#), a method for recording and monitoring patient information that transformed how doctors provide care.

1977

MRI provides internal insight.

Raymond Damadian performs the [first full-body MRI scan](#) of a human, offering detailed, internal pictures of the body for the first time.



1978

Wearable heart rate monitors hit the market.

[Polar Electro](#) introduces the first wearable consumer wireless heart rate monitor, marking the beginning of a new era of wearable health technology.

Late 1980s

PCs a common sight.

Personal computers become prevalent in physician offices, largely for billing and scheduling purposes.



2003

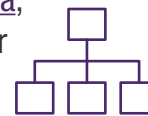
Scientists map all the genes in humans.

The completed [Human Genome Project](#) allows researchers to understand the blueprint of a person, which influences the fields of medicine, biotechnology and life sciences.

Late 1990s

Interconnected health networks emerge.

[Many countries, including Canada](#), implement EMRs as hubs of their healthcare systems.



1990s

The rise of the Internet.

Connectivity increases in Canada and other developed countries, making it easier than ever for medical professionals and patients to access information.

2010s

There's an app for that.

Health apps, fitness trackers and wearables become mainstream, making it easier for people to track progress against their health goals.



2016

3D body parts a distinct possibility.

Researchers successfully implant 3D printed bone, muscle and tissue into animals, highlighting a future of [custom-made replaceable body parts](#).

2017

AI used for Alzheimer's research.

Italian researchers develop [machine-learning algorithms](#) to discern structural changes in the brain caused by Alzheimer's disease, potentially speeding up diagnosis by a decade.

2019

The Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) takes off.

The [IoT healthcare market](#) — used to [analyze data and identify issues for intervention](#) — is slated to reach [\\$137B](#) worldwide by 2021.

2018

AI research to save heart and lung patients.

British researchers [develop AI to provide early diagnosis of heart disease and lung cancer](#).

