

Design of Connected Devices with High Functionality, Good Usability and Low Environmental Impact



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Introduction

- The problems of poor adherence, compliance and persistence with inhaler usage are well known and widespread.
- Ultimately they can lead to
 - non-optimal disease management and worsening symptoms
 - increasing healthcare costs
- It is possible to improve patient use by good, intuitive design of the device, well defined user inputs, and effective implementation both in design and manufacturing of the devices.
- The use of connected devices which monitor and provide feedback have been shown to improve these aspects further.



User needs remain at forefront, but consider needs of other stakeholders



Functional requirements leading to an optimised connected device



Example Design Considerations



Conflict between functionality and cost / environmental impact





Increasing fidelity and hence increasing efficacy

Add-on vs integrated systems

Function / attribute	Add-on	Add-on designed as a modular system	Integrated	Value
User pressed button	Button press ≡ adherence			Device preparation adherence data
User inhaled (binary)	Reliable implementation			Inhalation adherence data
User inhaled (measurement)	Reliable implementation			Physiological information
Doses remaining	Reliable implementation			Ability to monitor usage
Orientation	Easy implementation			Compliance /technique data
Inhaler usability	Impact on usa	ability		Better compliance and persistence
Cost / Environmental impact		Lower	Higher	More cost effective and sustainable medicines

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Implementing Connected Device Features

Add-on vs integrated

Reliability of data



Difficulty of implementation

Implementing Connected Device Features

Add-on vs integrated as a modular system

Reliability of data



implementation



Example:

DPI design with connectivity in mind, maintaining ease of use of device

Simple user interface

• 3-step operation (Open – Inhale – Close)

Placing the connectivity module in a position which does not interfere with the normal patient grip surfaces

 Areas under the sweep locus of moveable components, and not where a patient would hold

Ensures the patients' ability to use the device is not compromised



Example:

DPI design considering user operation and connectivity requirements

Connectivity requirements for "true" compliance

Monitoring all critical use steps:

- Checking that doses are left in the device
- Actuating the device correctly
- Inhaling at the optimum flowrate
- Holding the device in the correct orientation
- Closing the device when finished



Aim to maintain simplicity, high level of functionality whilst minimising the environmental impact



Example: Split functionality across base DPI and connectivity module

Design allows the connectivity module to sense information through specifically designed ports that do not add complexity to the base device

Enhanced sensing

- Mouthpiece cover position
- Dose number
- User flow rate
- Other physiological factors



Sensing of mechanical, light and air signals

Manufacturing Strategy

Payer Manufacturer





Force to Operate Base Device

Force to Operate Add-On

Manufacturer



Force to Operate Base Device

Force to Operate Add-On

Manufacturer





Force to Operate Base Device

Force to Operate Add-On

Equivalent performance from Clinical to Commercial



Development/Clinical: Low cavitation pilot tooling / low sample size electronics Commercial: Multi-cavity production tooling / high sample size multi-batch electronics

Summary

Inhaler design and connected health has the ability to improve medication outcomes and disease control

Carefully considering user and stakeholder needs early can improve ease of use, optimise usage data collection whilst 'designing out' complexity

Design and manufacturing approaches combine to minimise environmental impact

- Building-in simplicity at a conceptual level
- Splitting device functionality to retain key components and minimise waste
- Understanding energy use and implementing efficient manufacturing processes

For more information, please contact us: <u>enquiries@vectura.com</u>

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