

Name: _____

Opinion Writing

Primary care doctors are an important part of keeping people healthy in the United States. Primary care doctors prescribe medicine if people have an infection or another illness. They also provide early diagnoses of diseases, like heart disease or cancer. Primary care doctors also make sure people get the vaccines they need to stay healthy. The most common vaccines administered are for the flu, Hepatitis, and Meningitis.

One of the greatest challenges primary care doctors face is collecting and organizing vaccine information for their patients. Recently, scientists at a university in Boston have discovered a new way to store vaccine information inside the human body! How crazy is that?

Today, you will think like a primary care doctor and read an article on this new way of storing vaccine information. You will decide if you think primary care doctors should use this new technology to store their patients' vaccine information. Then, you will write between 10 tweets that state your opinion and provide evidence to back up your opinion. A tweet is a post on Twitter and has a limited number of characters.

Follow the directions below.

Step 1: Read article

Read the article below. As you read, circle or highlight important parts.

The medical community strongly recommends that people receive vaccines. Vaccines are important because they prevent diseases, like Measles, polio, and Hepatitis, from infecting millions of people.

In many countries, including the United States, primary care doctors struggle to organize and store patients' vaccine records. Vaccine records are a list of vaccines a patient has received. There are many reasons doctors struggle to organize vaccine records. One reason is because people move around a lot, and they do not bring their vaccine records to their new doctor. As a result, people's records are lost over time. Another reason is because doctors have to organize records for thousands of patients a year. Some primary care doctors see over 1800 patients a year!

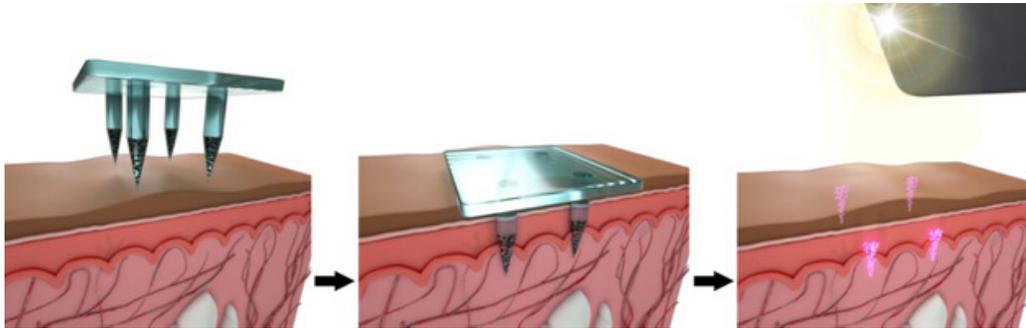
Doctors in underdeveloped countries face even more challenges. In many countries, doctors may not have access to electronic medical files. This means vaccine records must be kept on paper. These paper records can be easily lost or damaged.

Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, known as MIT, have developed a new type of technology for doctors to track and store information about the vaccines patients receive.

Name: _____

Opinion Writing

Here is how the technology works: A vaccine is mixed with a copper-based substance. The vaccine-copper mix is injected into a patient, just like a regular vaccine. The copper-based substance contains tiny dots with a special dye. This dye cannot be seen by the naked eye. However, it creates a pattern under the skin. The pattern lets a doctor know the type of vaccine that was injected. Doctors can use a smartphone app to read the dye under a patient's skin. They can identify the vaccines a person has received and know what other vaccines a person needs.



An illustration of how the technology would be applied and read. Kevin McHugh / Rice University

This new technology has been both praised and questioned by the medical community.

On the one hand, many people think this technology is a great idea. There would no longer be a need for paper or electronic medical records. As a result, records won't be lost and people will always know what vaccines they have and which ones they need. Supporters also argue that less people will die because of missed vaccines. Across the world, over a million people die each year because they did not receive proper vaccination. With this type of technology, people will always know what vaccines they need. "This technology will change the way doctors care for this patients," said one doctor. "Patients will no longer miss vaccines and spread diseases within their communities." Lastly, supporters argue that this new technology will free up doctors' time and resources so that they can see more patients and help more people. Doctors and their staff will not have to waste time searching for medical records.

While there are many supporters of the technology, some health care providers do not support it. One reason is because the technology could be an invasion of privacy. People's medical information could be accessed if the app was hacked. As a result, the information could be leaked and people could be discriminated against if they did or did not get vaccines. Some doctors have also brought up safety concerns. Patients may be allergic to the dye injected with the vaccine. Scientists also do not know the long term effects of the dye injected into patients. People are worried that the dye might harm the body in ways we cannot expect. "We just do not know if this technology will be safe for our patients to use. I think we should come up with storage methods that do not require injections into people," said a primary care doctor after learning about this technology.

No matter if you are for or against this technology, it is important for researchers to continue looking for ways to save more lives around the world.

Name: _____

Opinion Writing

Step 2: Read requirements for tweets

A tweet is a type of social media post. Tweets are used to spread information very quickly to many people across the internet. Typically, tweets are under 280 characters. You will write 10 tweets that state your opinion and provide evidence to back up your opinion. Your tweets need to meet the following requirements:

- Every tweet should have at least 1 hashtag (example: #savemorelives)
- Every tweet should include your opinion
- Tweets should be less than 3 sentences long
- At least 5 tweets should include a piece of evidence from the article
- At least 1 tweet should acknowledge another point of view (ex: Some people may say ice cream is bad for you, but in small amounts ice cream will not harm you)
- At least 1 tweet should incorporate all or part of a quote from the article above

Step 3: Brainstorm ideas for your tweets below.

Take a stance. Are you for or against this new technology?

Which pieces of evidence will you use in your tweets?

Which quote will you use?

What are some other points of views people may have on this topic?

Name: _____

Opinion Writing

Step 4: Write your tweets

Write your tweets out below. Remember that each tweet needs a hashtag!



What's happening?

Tweet



What's happening?

Tweet



What's happening?

Tweet



What's happening?

Tweet



What's happening?

Tweet

Name: _____

Opinion Writing



What's happening?

Tweet



GIF



What's happening?

Tweet



GIF



What's happening?

Tweet



GIF



What's happening?

Tweet



GIF



What's happening?

Tweet



GIF

