it will play an important role in clinical decision making.

Beyond the fitness applications, wearables are evolving into important therapeutic tools. As CB Insights notes, wearable patches can provide continuous biometric monitoring that provides a more accurate picture of a patient’s condition than the episodic monitoring we rely on today. Drug delivery patches can replace pills or needles making compliance with a therapeutic regime less burdensome and reducing the risk of patient error or mismanagement.

Finally, CB Insights identifies the application of blockchain to healthcare data management as a trend to watch. Healthcare data management is plagued by legacy systems that can’t communicate with each other and are increasingly subject to data breaches. Blockchain has the potential to improve everything from pharmaceutical supply chain security to the processing of medical insurance claims to enabling the elusive goal of medical record interoperability.