“Wearable Monitoring for Mental Health Patients”

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Mental health disease currently affects 1 in 5 individuals of the population (46 million people) in the United States. Over 10 million people each year experience a suicide attempt or significant thoughts of self-harm. According to the CDC, in 2010 there were over 500,000 self-harm injuries costing $44 billion in medical and work losses. Compounding the issue, the number of inpatient beds for mental illness has consistently decreased nationally from a peak in 1970 of 350,000 beds to less than 50,000 in 2010. With decreased availability of inpatient services with mental health, better options need to be available to direct care and identify high risk populations. Suicide is often an impulsive act happening in times of short-lived crises and patients often will describe not knowing that their condition had worsened before it was too late. Self-identification and support of worsening symptoms is vital in these circumstances rather than relying on scheduled outpatient visits to identify these behaviors, yet nothing is available beyond subjective assessments. This device aims to noninvasively, continuously monitor certain parameters in patients with depression and suicidality to allow early identification resulting in decreased suicide attempts and Emergency Department (ED) visits. The most likely route of revenue generation will be to license our IP rights to an industry development partner.