Comprehensive Analysis of RFID Usage in Medical - Field

NANDNI[1], KRIPAL SINGH[2], MANISH BARIYAL[3], DR. SHRUTI GUPTA[4]
[1, 2, 3, 4] School of Computer Applications, Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies

Abstract— Radio Frequency Identification is a type of communication that is wireless and uses the radio frequency part of the electromagnetic spectrum to identify an object, animal, or person uniquely through electromagnetic or electrostatic coupling technology. It has emerged as a promising solution in various industries, including engineering and construction. This technology offers the potential to transform processes, improve efficiency, and enhance material control and production management. However, there are limitations to RFID technology that must be understood and addressed in order to fully harness its capabilities. In this review paper, we present a comprehensive analysis of how RFID technology has been implemented in the healthcare sector, focusing on its recent developments and potential applications. The paper will also discuss the different types of RFID tags, including active, passive, semi-passive tags. With the utilization of RFID tags and readers, real-time traceability, interaction, connection, and position of goods, resources and people can be achieved. The utilization of RFID technology. technology has become ubiquitous in various industries, such as logistics, traceability, and access control. Moreover, RFID technology offers advantages such as unitary identification, wireless communication, and low cost of tags.

Index Terms— RFID Tags, sensors, real-time traceability, unitary identification, wireless communication

I. INTRODUCTION

Radio Frequency Identification is abbreviated as RFID. This type of communication is wireless and it is used to single out an item, animal, or person uniquely through electromagnetic or electrostatic coupling. It tracks, locates, and communicates with objects and people using radio frequency [1]. This is an approach that employs radio broadcast over the internet to track or recognize an article. Electronically encoded data that an RFID reader may be able to decipher. It is employed in many business and industrial applications, including as monitoring the movement of goods via a supply chain and recording the things that are checked out of libraries [2]. However, this technology has been around since before the 1970s, its applications in areas like as pet microchipping and worldwide supply chain management have led to a significant increase in its utilization in recent years. The devices may store a lot of data and are typically quite small. In some cases, it is barely visible and can be smaller than a rice grain. Even if they don't constantly release electricity, some of them may have batteries or a stored power source. In order to read the microchip, the scanners that are used to read these devices must also be able to supply enough current. The technology is frequently used to locate items, people, and money. Unlike conventional barcodes and QR codes, this device functions as a label during which data is read from tags that are stored in the database through the reader [3]. Either passive or active RFID is frequently read from outside the line of sight.

1.1 Components of RFID

1.1.1 RFID Readers

These devices are accountable for providing energy to the RFID tags via the antennae. During this, they capture the tag data, decode it, and send it to the appropriate program for interpretation. To cover all sectors, a variety of these readers are required.

These can be divided into the following categories:

A. Fixed RFID readers have the most power and provide the best performance when installing a professional RFID system.

B. Portable RFID Readers: With this sort of reader, we can integrate the RFID antenna within the device itself or connect it via Bluetooth or another connectivity technology.

C. USB RFID Readers: This hardware is best suited for simple applications that do not demand high technological performance readings.

1.1.2 RFID Antennas

In warehouses, manufacturing lines, retail establishments, healthcare facilities, athletic events, etc., these are utilized to read RFID tags. A beam (pattern), radiation pattern, or bulb is the three-dimensional action field that the antenna produces around it. The various kinds of RFID antennas that we come across are:

A. Universal RFID Antennas: These are common antennas that function well in nearly all circumstances.

B. Long-range RFID Antennas: These antennas have adjustable power and sensitivity and can be used to use RFID upto a maximum distance of 18 meters.

C. Short-range RFID Antennas: Because of their quickness, these near-field antennas are typically utilized at points of sale.

D. RFID floor antennas: These antennas can read everything that passes over them and are made to be mounted on the ground. They are of importance during conferences, wellknown races, etc.

1.2 RFID Tags can be divided into two types:

1.2.1 Passive tags: They are devoid of a power source and are unable to communicate on their own. When connecting to the reader, an integrated capacitor (typically) must provide the necessary energy (mostly inductive). They can deliver data over a few meters using them.[2]

1.2.2 Active tags: They are a little larger because of the backup battery. This kind of transponder has a several hundred- meter range. Both inductive and electromagnetic coupling are possible.[3] Additionally, there are tags that are semi-passive, meaning that the RFID reader powers communication while a battery powers the electronics.

In every RFID system, embedded non-volatile memory with low power consumption is essential. Less than 2,000 KB of data, including a unique identifier/serial number, are normally stored on RFID tags. Read-only or read-write tags allow the reader to add new data or overwrite already-existing data. The read range of RFID tags is decided by several elements, such as the kind of tag, the type of reader, the RFID frequency, and any interference from nearby objects or other RFID tags and readers. Because they have a stronger power supply, active RFID tags can read data farther than passive RFID tags.

1.3 RFID systems can further be classified into three types:

1.3.1 Low-frequency RFID systems: These frequencies span from 30 to 500 kHz, with 125 kHz being the most common. LF RFID has modest transmission ranges, often ranging from a few inches to less than six feet.

1.3.2 High-frequency RFID system: These span from 3 to 30 MHz, with the average HF frequency being 13.56 MHz the usual range varies from a few inches to many feet. UHF RFID systems. These span from 300 MHz to 960 MHz, with a common frequency of 433 MHz, and can be read from more than 25 feet away.

1.3.3 Microwave RFID systems: These run at 2.45 Ghz and may be read from over 30 feet away.

The frequency used will change according to the RFID application, and real distances may differ from what is expected. For example, when the US State Department announced that it would issue electronic passports with RFID chips, it stated that the chips could only be read from around 4 inches away. However, the State Department soon discovered that RFID readers could read information from RFID tags from distances greater than 4 inches, sometimes up to 33 feet. If larger read ranges are required, employing more powerful tags can increase read ranges to 300 feet or more.

1.4. Working of RFID

RFID typically employs radio waves to conduct AIDC functions. AIDC stands for “Automatic Identification and Data Capture technology”, which identifies objects, collects data, and map sit. An antenna is a device that turns power into radio waves, which are then utilized to communicate between the reader and tag. RFID readers get information from RFID tags by detecting them and reading or writing data into them. It may include a single CPU, packaging, storage, and transmitter and receiver units.

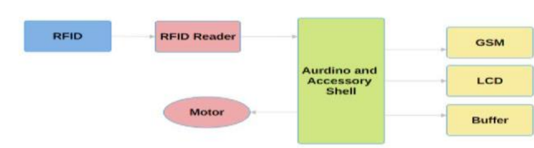

Fig1: working of RFID

Figure 1 shows the working of the RFID technology. An RFID system consists of three components: a scanning antenna, a transceiver and a transponder. The transceiver and transponder are collectively known as RFID reader which activates the tag. After the activation the tag sends the signal back to the reader where it is converted into meaningful data. The data is then transferred through the communication channel to the host computer, where it is stored in the database and analyzed.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

[1] The author found that Near-field coupling is the most common approach for implementing RFID systems. And how cost is a major barrier to widespread adoption of RFID technology. RFID tags have limited read-write memory, but it is expected to grow in the future. RFID tags could enable distributed memory capabilities in our surroundings. RFID tags based on far-field emissions can accumulate energy to power their electronics. RFID tags with read-write memory could enable distributed memory capabilities.

[2] The author discusses as to how the RFID technology will enhance security, reliability, and accuracy in organizations. The paper discusses the components, advantages, and limitations of radio frequency identification technology. It also discusses how RFID has numerous applications in different sectors.

[3] This paper presents a QR code-based chip less RFID system for secure identification. The system uses multiple QR code resonators on a single RFID tag. The method allows for quick identification from a distance of 2 meters. The system has potential applications in disaster-hit areas and healthcare. The design can be printed on flexible substrates and incorporate additional features. The paper provides detailed explanations of the working principle and design of the system.

[4] The authors examine the considerable cost and time reductions associated with the technology of RFID in outpatient surgery. RFID technology eradicates activities that do not contribute value and reduces the occurrence of postoperative infections. Poka-yokes created through RFID implementation improve both patient safety and cost efficiency.

[5] The paper critically assessed literature in the healthcare sector and scrutinized particular cases of RFID adoption through an inclusive simulation model crafted with Excel, @Risk, and Visio software applications. The approach amalgamated contemporary industry investigations with informal survey information to chart the process of childbirth delivery within the health domain. Subsequently, Lean Six Sigma techniques were utilized to scrutinize operational procedures and the flow of work.

[6] The structured methodology utilized in the research paper aims to evaluate the advantages of RFID-enabled solutions within a hospital environment. This methodology entails the adaptation of “cause-effect maps” to recognize performance determinants and crucial “key performance indicators (KPIs)” pertaining to both efficiency and effectiveness. An in-depth qualitative assessment is carried out to gauge the influence of RFID on the identified KPIs, specifically focusing on inventory management and clinical risk. Moreover, specialized analytical models are devised to evaluate the effects on the designated KPIs, including aspects like inventory holding cost, inventory control cost, and ordering cost. The model uses factors such as average daily consumption, lead time, insurance expenses and obsolete items for analysing the performance.

[7] This paper discusses how the RFID technology in the healthcare sector provides capabilities for tracking and accessing data; however, it encounters obstacles in terms of widespread adoption. A comprehensive examination delves into the various applications, advantages, and challenges associated with RFID technology in healthcare.

[8] In this paper the author did a thorough examination of articles on technology offered by RFID in the Journal of Medical Systems was conducted and examined twenty-two papers. The review findings informed the identification of future research avenues.

[9] This paper contains research avenue concerning the safe and secure implementation of RFID’s state of art technology in the healthcare sector The imperative requirement for standardized protocols in RFID-enabled healthcare devices was underscored. The examination delved into the ramifications of RFID technology on medical equipment and its susceptibility to electromagnetic interference. The exploration also encompassed the potential utilization of RFID sensor tags for sophisticated medical surveillance purposes.

[10] In this paper the RHMS architecture was introduced and a comprehensive assessment of the operational system prototype was performed. An architectural framework was suggested for a Healthcare Management System in healthcare that utilizes RFID technology. An examination of past areas of uses of RFID in healthcare is provided.

[11] The paper presents a thorough examination of radio frequency identification (RFID) applications and challenges within the healthcare industry is presented. A framework has been formulated to classify RFID-based applications specifically designed for healthcare settings. Three main categories of RFID-enabled applications have been distinguished: asset management, patient tracking, and staff supervision. The advantages and concerns associated with implementing RFID innovation in healthcare have been emphasized.

[12] This manuscript provides an overview of the prominent topics, applications, security measures,

and trends concerning Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID). Key statistical metrics such as citation count and average growth rate were efficiently extracted. Additionally, various subsections were explored, encompassing Internet of Things (IoT), Supply Chain Management, and Authentication. An observation was made that apprehensions regarding privacy serve as a deterrent to the broader adoption of RFID in certain scenarios.

[13] This paper focuses on the utilization of RFID technology in the healthcare sector, specifically in patient monitoring and logistics management. Hospitals leverage RFID to enhance their operational efficiency, employing it for patient safety, asset tracking, and supply chain management. The adoption of RFID in healthcare is aimed at mitigating medical errors and reducing costs. While there are limited widespread applications of RFID in healthcare, the potential advantages are significant.

[14] This article emphasizes the utilization of automated systems for drug identification, leading to increased efficiency, error reduction, and improved tracking capabilities. The advancements in technology also contribute to the enhancement of medicine retrieval, monitoring, alarm systems, and networking to further improve efficiency. Moreover, it enables the attainment of traceability, prevention of tampering, and provides cost-effective connectivity to Health Information Systems. The paper delves into discussing various methods and challenges associated with drug distribution management in healthcare.

[15]

[16] This study critically examined 11 scholarly articles that centered on the influence of RFID within the healthcare sector. The researcher noted a positive correlation between RFID implementation and enhanced patient safety through the reduction of medical errors during procedures. Additionally, RFID was found to be effective in addressing issues related to drug counterfeiting and improving wound monitoring. However, there is a call for additional research in areas such as data management, security protocols, and privacy safeguards.

III. APPLICATIONS

3.1 Tracking: Applications for RFID tracking in healthcare include a variety of strategies meant to improve patient care and maximise operational effectiveness. Healthcare facilities can track the whereabouts and movements of patients, medical supplies, and assets in real time by utilising RFID technology. By affixing RFID tags to medical equipment, asset monitoring helps personnel find resources quickly, prevent loss, and guarantee equipment upkeep. RFID tags incorporated into wristbands or badges are used in patient tracking to track patient movement, enabling prompt delivery of care and enhancing security. RFID-enabled automation improves inventory management by guaranteeing precise stock levels, tracking of expiration dates, and regulatory compliance. RFID tags are used in blood and tissue tracking to follow supply chain movements, improving traceability and guaranteeing the secure delivery of vital medical supplies. By keeping an eye on sterilisation status and tool usage, surgical instrument tracking improves patient safety. RFID is used in pharmaceutical supply chain tracking to maintain regulatory compliance, stop product counterfeiting, and confirm product authenticity. All things considered, workflows are streamlined, resources are allocated optimally, and patient outcomes are eventually enhanced by RFID tracking applications in healthcare. By keeping an eye on sterilisation status and tool usage, surgical instrument tracking improves patient safety. RFID is used in pharmaceutical supply chain tracking to maintain regulatory compliance, stop product counterfeiting, and confirm product authenticity. All things considered, workflows are streamlined, resources are allocated optimally, and patient outcomes are eventually enhanced by RFID tracking applications in healthcare.

3.2 Identification and Verification: RFID technology is critical to identification and verification applications in the healthcare industry, supporting patient safety and optimising workflows. Throughout the patient's healthcare journey, healthcare institutions can precisely identify and authenticate patients by incorporating RFID tags into patient wristbands or badges. By ensuring that the appropriate patient receives the appropriate care, drug, or procedure, errors are reduced and the overall quality of care is improved. Furthermore, RFID-enabled patient identification makes it easier for medical professionals to swiftly make educated judgements by facilitating access to medical histories and electronic health records (EHRs). RFID tags are not only useful for patient identification; they may also be used to confirm the legitimacy of medications, biological materials, and medical supplies, preventing counterfeiting and guaranteeing adherence to regulations.

Additionally, RFID technology protects assets and sensitive data by enabling secure access control to restricted locations within healthcare facilities. All things considered, RFID-based identification and verification applications promote operational effectiveness, increase patient safety, and make the healthcare environment more secure.

3.3 Sensing: RFID sensing applications in the medical field allow for the real-time monitoring of environmental parameters like as humidity and temperature to ensure that delicate medicinal supplies are stored in the best possible circumstances. Wearable RFID-enabled devices also monitor vital signs of patients, allowing for remote patient monitoring and early health issue discovery. RFID sensing technology is used in hygiene compliance monitoring to guarantee adherence to infection control policies. RFID sensors also make it possible to track assets and manage utilisation more effectively by identifying the presence and movement of medical professionals and equipment within healthcare facilities. In general, RFID sensing raises operational efficiency, simplifies resource allocation, and increases patient safety in healthcare settings.

3.4 Interventions: RFID technology improves patient care and safety in healthcare settings by providing useful intervention applications. Healthcare practitioners can remotely monitor and manage patient treatment regimens by embedding RFID tags into medical devices. RFID-enabled infusion pumps, for example, can be set up to administer drugs at exact dosages and notify medical personnel when there are discrepancies. Similar to this, patient monitoring systems with RFID capabilities allow for the real-time surveillance of vital signs, allowing for prompt intervention in the event of irregularities. Medical asset tracking with RFID also guarantees timely repair and restocking, avoiding equipment malfunctions that can jeopardise patient care. In general, RFID intervention applications in healthcare contexts optimise therapy delivery, lower mistakes, and enhance patient outcomes.

3.5 Alerts and triggers: In the healthcare industry, RFID technology plays a key role in alert and trigger applications that guarantee prompt actions and improve patient safety. Healthcare institutions are able to programme automated warnings and triggers for a variety of circumstances by incorporating RFID tags into patient wristbands or medical devices. RFID sensors, for example, can identify when a patient tries to leave without permission or enters a restricted area, alerting staff members to take urgent action. In a similar vein, RFID-enabled medicine dispensers can notify medical professionals when a patient obtains the wrong prescription or when a dose is missed.

Moreover, automatic notifications for low inventory levels, expired goods, or equipment failures are made possible by RFID-based tracking of supplies and equipment, guaranteeing prompt maintenance and refilling.

IV. BENEFITS AND BARRIERS

RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology has many applications in the manufacturing, healthcare, retail, and logistics sectors. But there are also obstacles in the way of its broad acceptance. Let's investigate both:

4.1 Benefits of RFID in Healthcare

4.1.1 Patient Safety and Error Reduction: Through accurate patient, drug, and medical device identification, RFID technology improves patient safety. RFID lessens mistakes in patient identification, medicine administration, and equipment management, which helps healthcare settings avoid unfavourable events, achieve better treatment results, and provide higher-quality care overall.

4.1.2 Streamlined Processes and Cost Savings: By automating asset tracking and data collecting, RFID technology reduces administrative overhead and manual labour, resulting in more efficient processes. RFID allows cost savings through decreased labour costs, inventory shrinkage, and operational inefficiencies in a variety of industries, including healthcare, retail, and logistics. It does this by optimising inventory management, asset utilisation, and workflow efficiency.

4.1.3 Optimization of Medical Processes: Automating asset tracking and data collecting, together with lowering administrative and manual labour costs, is how RFID technology simplifies operations.

RFID reduces labour costs, inventory shrinkage, and operational inefficiencies in the healthcare, retail, and logistics sectors, among other businesses. It does this by optimising inventory management, asset utilisation, and workflow efficiency.

4.1.4 Additional Benefits: More advantages of RFID technology include improved product visibility, which makes inventory control and supply chain management easier. Faster checkout times and individualised retail offerings enhance consumer experiences as well. RFID also improves security across a range of businesses by helping with asset recovery and preventing theft.

TABLE I Benefits of RFID Application in Healthcare

S. No	*BENEFITS*	*FINDINGS*
1	Increased safety or reduced medical errors	Less misidentification of patients, medical articles, patient chart and images. Improve patient drug compliance by monitoring dosage taking process. Affection control during disease fashion
2	Real-time data access	Provide real-time data access for health professionals via hand-held wireless PDA, e.g., contact history of patients,online laboratory data and radiology report.
3	Time saving	Identify empty beds >20 minutes earlier 67% of time. Identify a time reduction of more than 50% in the daily activities of hospital
4	Cost saving	A 500-bed hospital could save $1 million annually. Reduce theft loss and unnecessary waste.
5	Improved Medical Process	Streamline patient admission to ICU. Process can be improved so patients can have less wait time and better experience

4.2 Barriers to RFID Adoption

The implementation of RFID technology in the healthcare sector to enhance patient safety is a multifaceted matter, encompassing technological, economic, social, and managerial aspects

4.2.1 Technical Challenges: RFID use is being hampered by technical issues such as data security risks, low read range, and signal interference. Concerns about scalability and standardization further obstruct integration with current systems. To overcome these obstacles, robust solutions that guarantee dependable performance and data safety are needed, along with advancements in RFID technology.

4.2.2 Financial Status: RFID implementation is hampered by budgetary concerns, especially for small firms. The initial outlay for RFID infrastructure, which includes software, scanners, and tags, can be substantial. A further factor restricting adoption for certain organizations is the continuous costs associated with maintenance, upgrades, and training.

4.2.3 Privacy Concerns: Because RFID technology can track people and things, privacy concerns are a hurdle to its widespread use. Identity theft, data breaches, and unauthorized spying are concerns for consumers. To guarantee that RFID systems are trusted and accepted, it is necessary to address these issues by putting in place strong privacy protections, open policies, and regulatory compliance requirements.

4.2.4 Organizational and Cultural Barriers: RFID adoption is impeded by organizational and cultural constraints, such as deeply ingrained procedures, a lack of leadership support, and opposition to change. Integration initiatives might be hampered by organizational silos and objective misalignment. Developing an innovative culture, coordinating organizational objectives with RFID projects, and employing proactive change management techniques are all necessary to get beyond these obstacles.

TABLE II Barriers of RFID Application in Healthcare

S. No	*BARRIERS*	*FINDINGS*
1	Inference	Electronic medical devices may fail in the presence of high-power RFID reader.
2	Ineffectiveness	RFID tag readability is strongly dependent on the Ineffectiveness factors such as dosage form, angle of rotation, read distance Readability can be affected by insufficient read range, and existence of multiple tagged objects.
3	Standardization	The lack of standardization of the protocols for RFID at the hardware and software levels causes lack of interoperability across providers.
4	Privacy and issues	Privacy concerns can include inappropriate collection, intentional misuse, or unauthorized disclosure of healthcare resulting from use of RFID

CONCLUSION

In summary, the integration of RFID technology within healthcare systems presents a paradigm shift towards more efficient, patient-centric care delivery. Beyond the conventional applications of asset tracking and patient identification, RFID offers a multifaceted approach to enhancing operational workflows, improving patient safety, and optimizing resource utilization. By harnessing real-time data insights provided by RFID-enabled solutions, healthcare providers can streamline processes, mitigate errors, and ultimately elevate the quality of care provided to patients.However, the widespread adoption of RFID in healthcare is not without its challenges. Technical limitations, including interoperability issues and potential electromagnetic interference, must be addressed to ensure seamless integration into existing infrastructure. Moreover, the significant initial investment and ongoing maintenance costs associated with RFID deployment necessitate careful financial planning and consideration of long-term sustainability. Privacy concerns also loom large, requiring robust safeguards to protect sensitive patient information and ensure compliance with regulatory standards. Additionally, the absence of universally accepted standards poses a barrier to interoperability and hinders the scalability of RFID solutions across healthcare networks.

Despite these hurdles, the benefits of RFID technology in healthcare are undeniable. From improving medication management and inventory control to enhancing patient tracking and safety, RFID has the potential to revolutionize the way healthcare is delivered. With continued innovation, collaboration, and strategic implementation, RFID holds the key to unlocking unprecedented efficiencies and advancements in patient care. In conclusion, while challenges remain, the transformative potential of RFID technology in healthcare is vast. By addressing technical, financial, and regulatory considerations, healthcare organizations can harness the power of RFID to usher in a new era of smarter, more responsive healthcare delivery, ultimately benefiting patients, providers, and stakeholders alike

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