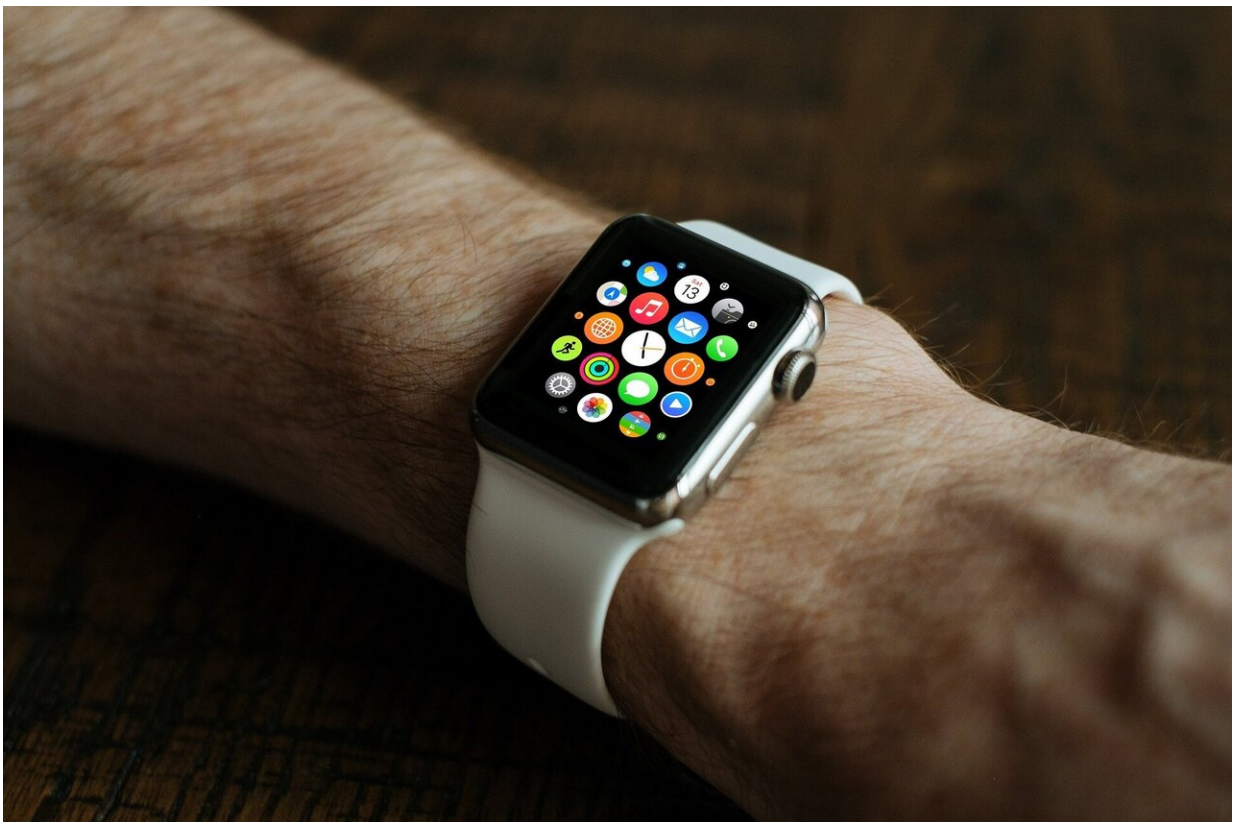


Apple reportedly looking at blood sugar, blood pressure and alcohol monitoring for future Apple Watches

May 3 2021, by Mike Snider, Usa Today



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Your Apple Watch is apparently going to get a lot smarter in the months ahead.

Future models may be able to measure [blood sugar levels](#), [blood pressure](#) and [blood](#) alcohol, suggest some revelations from one of Apple's suppliers.

But it's unknown whether all those features will be available in the Apple Watch 7, expected to be revealed this fall.

That's because U.K. company Rockley Photonics, which makes sensors for wearables, doesn't expect to deliver the silicon photonics chipsets needed for those health monitoring features until the first half of 2022, it said in documents filed in its process of becoming a publicly traded company.

U.K. newspaper *The Telegraph* first reported on the filing, in which Rockley says that Apple is its biggest customer. The company says its products are being designed for several uses including [medical devices](#) to track blood pressure, body temperature, blood glucose, [blood alcohol](#), and blood oxygen levels.

Expanded medical tracking would likely interest consumers, especially those with Type 2 diabetes, who may need to test their blood sugar several times daily.

Rockley's "clinic on the wrist" technology uses infrared sensors to detect various medical readings through the skin, which the company claims is better than the technology used in current wearables.

The Apple Watch 6 currently can read blood oxygen levels, check your heart rhythm, and heart rate. And the latest Samsung Galaxy smartwatches, the Galaxy Watch3 and Galaxy Watch Active2, can monitor your blood pressure, once calibrated with a traditional blood pressure measuring cuff.

Apple has been working on [blood glucose](#) tracking for several years, with CEO Tim Cook testing a device back in 2017, CNBC reported at the time. And there were reports that feature might come to the Apple Watch 7, according to MacRumors.

Blood pressure monitoring could be included in the next model because Apple has a relevant patent, tech news site Tom's Guide reported.

Consumers want more health features and Rockley estimates the market for medical wearables and devices as more than \$48 billion by 2025. And the wearables, home and accessories category has been a hit for Apple with sales up 24% to \$7.8 billion in the first quarter of 2021 (January-March), after a record fourth quarter 2020 when sales rose 20% to \$13 billion.

"I still think we're in the early innings on the watch," Apple CEO Tim Cook said last week. "This is a long way from being a mature market."

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