

Baby sleeping

INSPIRE

2015 Nominet Trust 100 Winner

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2015

PORTABLE PAEDIATRIC VITALS

By Inspire Living Inc

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- Health
- Physical Computing

Pneumonia is the most common infectious cause of death in infants worldwide, accounting for 15% of all deaths of children under five years old. The highest incidents of pneumonia are in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, where access to healthcare is often lacking. Tragically, although the infection can be easily treated with antibiotics, only a third of children affected by pneumonia received proper diagnosis and the straightforward treatment they needed.

Washington DC-based start-up Inspire Living is an early-stage company that believes access to healthcare is a basic human right, which is why they are developing simple and cost-effective medical tools for quick diagnoses. The first product is INSPIRE, a portable device that measures a baby's vital statistics. The device is placed around the baby's chest to take an automated respiratory reading by counting the infant's breaths – a crucial step in the diagnosis of pneumonia. INSPIRE also monitors temperature, heart rate, activity levels and anxiety states.

INSPIRE has a smart interface designed for use by anyone – from untrained personnel to qualified doctors – in even the most inaccessible locations. It is worn on the wrist like a watch, making it convenient to carry to the field. Vitals are measured in one minute, and the information can be immediately communicated to a doctor by a mobile phone network or Bluetooth connection. With this technology, underprivileged infants from poorer communities will have access to the basic lifesaving healthcare they currently lack.

INSPIRE is currently in the prototype phase, and the company is testing it with aid organisations Project Hope and the International Rescue Committee.

Image 'Sleeping' courtesy of Torbein Rønning.

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