

# Wearable Sensor for Monitoring Respiratory Failure in Opioid Users

## Lead Inventors:

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## Background & Unmet Need

- Drug overdose deaths are the number one cause of deaths for Americans under fifty years old
- Opioids are currently the main driver of drug overdose deaths, accounting for ~ 75 K deaths in 2021
- In most cases, opioid-related deaths occur due to respiratory depression that progresses to respiratory arrest and asystole
- Current approaches to monitoring respiratory events use physical-contact body sensors and related methods that have various drawbacks, including high cost, poor comfort due to the need for direct skin contact, and complex operation requirements
- **Unmet Need:** Comfortable and unobtrusive wearable device capable of detecting respiratory events in opioid users, allowing for rapid emergency response

## Technology Overview

- **The Technology:** A non-invasive, non-contact and low-cost wearable sensor that uses a near-field coherent (NCS) sensing multiplexing antenna to monitor respiratory failure and provide alert signals
- The NCS techniques work on the principle that body movement can be clearly and unambiguously retrieved from the RF antenna characteristics, and then be correlated with vital signs
- **PoC Data:** The vital signs are digitally recorded and broadcast by the tag in the outdoor environment, and a ceiling-mounted reader connects to the sensing tag to retrieve the wearer's vital signs (Fig. 1)
- The sensor successfully detects different respiratory events (Fig. 2)
- The initial data showed that the invention's accuracy in cardiopulmonary functions is comparable to RIP and phonocardiogram (PCG) measurements (Fig. 3)

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## Patents:

[PCT Application Filed](#)

## Publications:

[Hui et al.](#) *Sci Adv.* 2019.

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## Cornell Reference:

D-7785, D-8812

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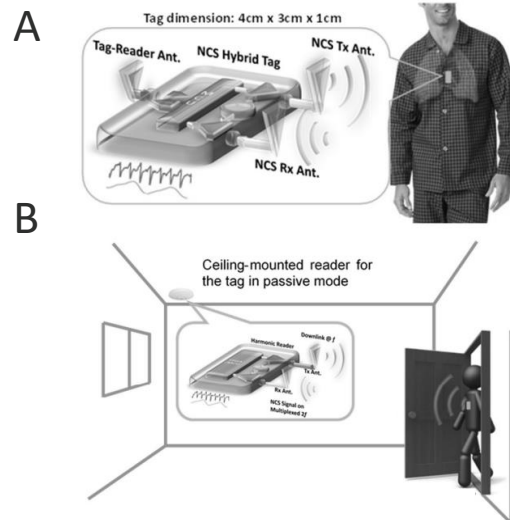
## Technology Applications

- Monitor respiratory events in opioid users
- Device may also be useful in patients with breathing disorders
- Could be employed to detect and/or monitor sleep apnea

## Technology Advantages

- No immediate skin contact or tension belts
- Minimal constraint of user range of motion
- Cost-effective implementation, anticipated cost < \$5 under mass production
- Equivalent accuracy compared to RIP, ECG, and phonocardiogram (PCG)
- Minimal RF radiation for user safety and limited interference to other wireless modules

## Supporting Data / Figures



**Figure 1:** Depicts the NCS system components. **A:** Shows the tag in active mode, powered by its on-board battery in an outdoor environment. **B:** Shows the tag operates in a passive mode in an indoor environment or the tag with a low battery.

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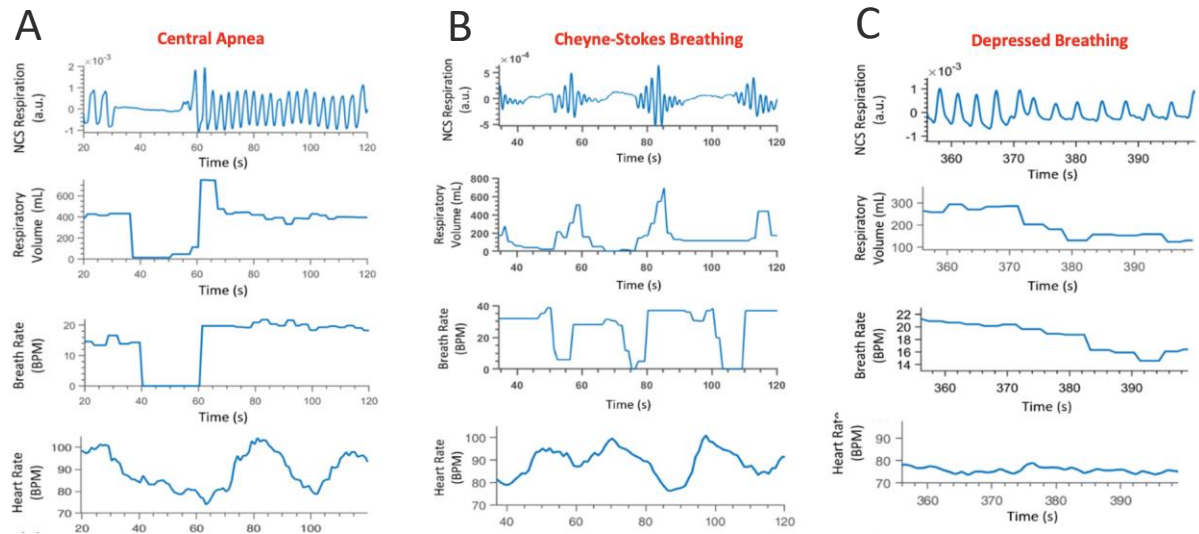
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**Figure 2:** NCS raw waveforms, respiratory volume, breath rate, and heart rate vital sign waveforms for (A) breathing simulating central apnea, (B) simulating Cheyne-Stokes, and (C) simulated depressed breathing.

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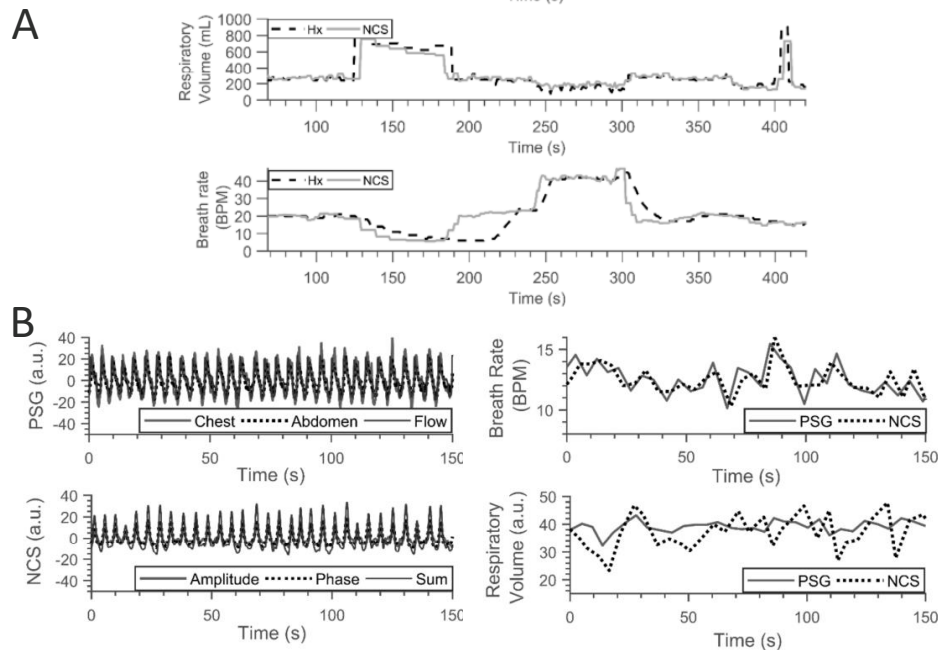
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**Figure 3:** NCS shows comparable accuracy in cardiopulmonary functions to RIP and PSG. **A:** Vital-sign comparison between NCS with a single chest tag and Hexoskin (Hx) with respiratory inductive plethysmography (RIP) thorax and abdomen belts in various autonomous breathing exercises, top: extracted respiratory volumes; bottom: extracted breath rates. **B:** Shows a preliminary comparison for sample extracted breath rates and respiratory volumes using PSG and NCS.

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