HealthAction Patient Toolkit | TTO

The HealthAction Patient Toolkit is a simple, interactive, and interoperable tool that addresses the financial and personal burden of chronic illness by increasing patients’ awareness of their health status, enabling them to participate more fully with their care team and improving their treatment compliance.

What is the problem?

Roughly 4 out of 5 health care dollars are spent on behalf of people with chronic conditions. Chronically ill patients and their caregivers struggle to coordinate among multiple specialists, prepare for appointments, research information, comply with treatments, and communicate effectively with providers. Providers must make critical decisions based on limited, incomplete, patient-provided data, resulting in duplication of tests, uncoordinated treatment plans, extended illness, and higher costs.

How will the HealthAction Patient Toolkit help?

This easy-to-use toolkit will demonstrate how mobile information technology can be leveraged to empower patients with chronic conditions to more effectively manage their illnesses and to engage in successful partnerships with their care teams. The toolkit includes simple, easy-to-use interfaces built upon patient-centered, daily workflows to maximize patients’ engagement and help them develop habits that improve their health outcomes.

Design Approach

The HealthAction Patient Toolkit is an iPad application developed in modules to maximize the reuse of code. The toolkit’s relational database is HL7-compliant to ensure future interoperability with other electronic health care systems. Requirements that overlap with existing iPad features, such as contact information, have been integrated with the existing iPad code to ensure ease of use.

Chronic conditions present many challenges in both their management and treatment. Providers and patients often must make critical decisions based on limited, incomplete patient-provided data. The HealthAction Patient Toolkit helps people with chronic illnesses better track changes in their health, communicate with their providers, and increase treatment compliance rates.
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Benefits

The HealthAction Patient Toolkit will empower patients to:

- Manage their days more effectively by providing a planner that integrates their health activities with their daily calendars
- Longitudinally track the severity of their symptoms, view the data to improve their situational awareness, and provide a complete set of information to their providers
- Increase their treatment compliance rates by providing tunable reminders that reduce errors by incorporating photos and relevant instructions
- Research their illness and stay current with latest reports
- Use easy-to-understand data to identify relationships among symptoms, treatment changes, compliance rates, life events, and data imported from external systems such as laboratories
- Optimize the time spent with their providers and capture the results and actions from doctors’ visits

Summary

Research generated by the HealthAction Patient Toolkit will provide data to demonstrate the benefits of specific methods, best practices, and tools that can be leveraged to empower patients and their caregivers to successfully engage with their care teams. Because patients with chronic illnesses require the majority of health care dollars, identifying ways to improve care for this population introduces the potential for substantial savings in health care costs. This paradigm-changing tool has the potential to fundamentally change the patient–doctor engagement model for the benefit of both patients and providers and to reduce the financial and personal burdens of chronic illnesses.

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