OurApp: A Mobile Application to Benefit Parents of Medically Complex Children

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BACKGROUND

A prototype of a mobile application that functions to bridge the gap other applications have presented has been created in PowerPoint and PowerApps. It has five different lifelong ailments that are commonly seen in the pediatric population. It provides:

- Educational component as to what the disease process is and how their child acquired it
- Complications of the condition/disease
- Instructions on when to call their provider or take their child to the emergency room
- Names of providers in their state and specialty clinic locations
- Step-by-step care of medical devices such as central lines or feeding tube
- Financial aid resources
- Support group resources
- Advice from other parents who have gone through the same diagnosis process

This app allows clinicians and parents to walk through each part of a diagnosis together, while providing accurate information on every resource that the family will need.

METHODS

- Information was collected on Short Bowel Syndrome, Crohn's Disease, Cerebral Palsy, PKU, and Spina Bifida
- Information and care instructions were written to match the national average reading level
- Data was collected on premier providers and specialty care clinics
- Disease based financial aid, clinical trials, and support groups were compiled and listed
- Parents of children with disease processes were contacted and shared their stories and advice

CONTACT INFO:
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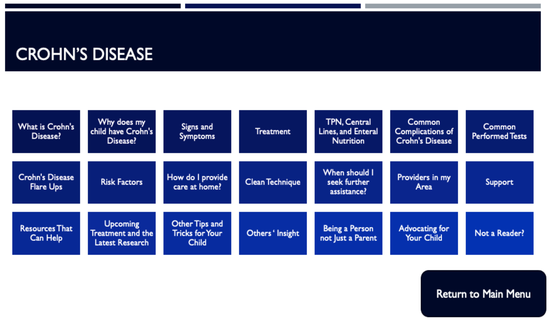
Is there a need to improve accessible patient education in long-term pediatric care?

Patient education does not stop at the child, it includes the parents/guardians

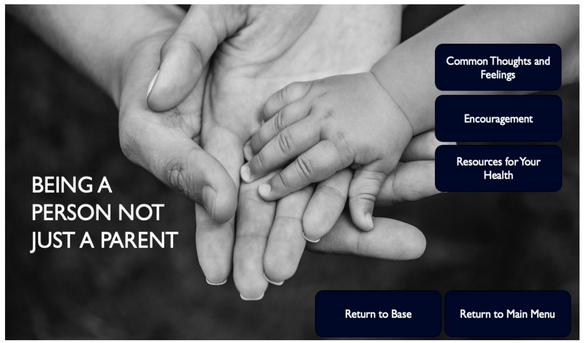
Previous studies on medical applications for parents of medically complex children show a gap in medical knowledge and clinical care aid

Literature shows that parents of medically complex children would be willing to incorporate a mobile app in their child's healthcare, regardless of socioeconomic status

Education and Assistance



OurApp Parent Support



RESULTS

Clinical providers in the Peoria, IL area provided feedback on whether the app prototype would be beneficial to patients and an asset to providers

- Clinicians thought that this would benefit patient education and would be easily incorporated into care.
- Revisions were made for home care of central lines and other home-aid recommendations by nursing staff
- Suggestions were to incorporate video explanations of disease processes for those who are auditory and visual learners

DISCUSSION

This mobile application is parent-focused and will help to serve as a guide throughout the transition of caring for their child with a long-term illness.

- It only provides data collected for the state of Illinois
- The goal is to expand this application to include other conditions that require life-long treatment over a larger geographical area
- The next step is to convert the Powerapp/PowerPoint into a useable iPhone/Android application

CONCLUSION

Review of the literature shows a gap in patient education in this niche of pediatric care. This mobile application serves to bridge that gap by making accurate medical information and resource data more accessible. Reviewing clinicians believe that OurApp could be incorporated into clinical care and be beneficial to parents during the time of diagnosis.

DISCLOSURE INFORMATION

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