

How can we combat the feeling of uncertainty parents get when their child is diagnosed with cancer?

Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

IMPACT Combating Parent Uncertainty

In collaboration with: Ahna Pai, PhD

When: Summer Semester 2015

The Opportunity

Dr. Ahna Pai is leading a diagnosis uncertainty study in collaboration with LWC. This study aims to create an educational app that helps parents who are suffering from the initial shock of learning that their child has cancer. The app will introduce information currently presented to the parents in a less intimidating manner, empowering them to be more supportive for their children.

The Challenge

Currently, at diagnosis parents receive a large, intimidating binder filled information about the treatment process. Most parents do not use the binder after they receive it, causing them to feel uncertain about the process. This can affect their child, making them feel more stressed.

The Approach

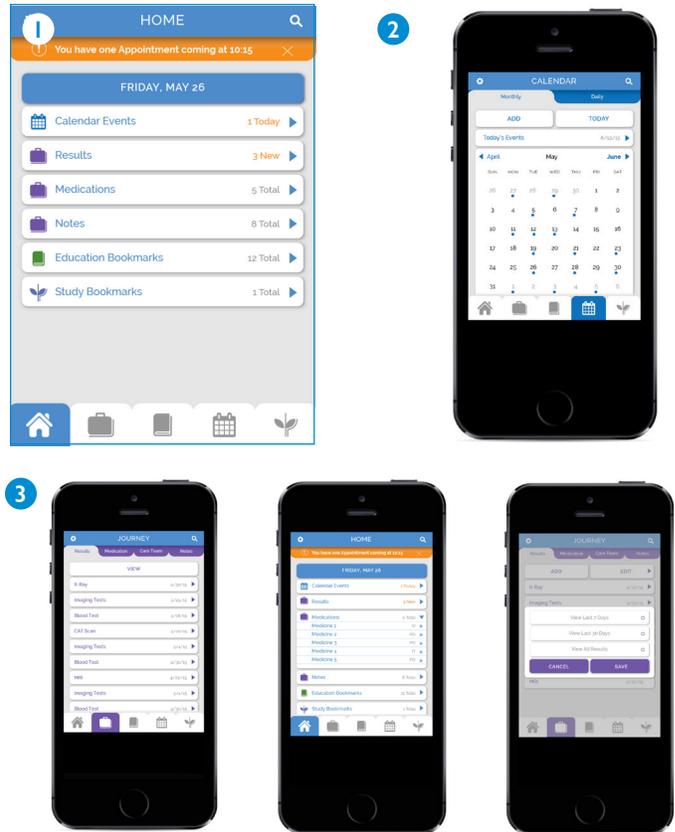
The Live Well team created a wireframe for an app that delivers information from the binder in a digital, less intimidating form. This app will serve as a reference for parents whenever they feel uncertain about the treatment process, and will empower them to be supportive for their children.

The Impact

This app allows parents to easily and quickly answer questions about the treatment process, medical terms, care providers, and doctor availability.

Where is it now?

Currently, a five-year randomized clinical trial testing is being conducted on the app. Participating parents of children newly diagnosed with cancer will be randomly assigned to one of two conditions - both conditions will have access the mobile application. Sixty patients are currently enrolled with recruiting scheduled to end May 2019. Preliminary results are expected in May 2020.



“In the beginning, the parents are in so much shock that you have to repeat the education process over and over again.”

- Father of 8 year old child diagnosed with cancer

1 App Prototype

The home screen of the app brings the user to six options. The navigation is simple so that the distressed parent is not confused.

2 My Treatment Process

Parents can follow their child’s personal treatment plan through the app to track their journey and see what steps lie ahead.

3 Interactive Functions

The app synchronizes to both the patient’s and care team’s calendar so that parents can always stay up to date and connected. There are also teaching tools to help parents stay informed.