

CostCoach

Executive Summary

Overview:

The purpose of this project is to aid and inform cancer patients about expected financial costs of their treatment. The issue at the moment is that there is no way for patients to accurately assess their long term cancer treatment costs. There also exists a stigma where patients are hesitant to ask doctors and medical professionals about the costs of their treatments and how to plan for these expenses. As a result, patients partake in improper financial planning as they anticipate a bill several months down the line. For example, as a patient is diagnosed, they may schedule and attend several meetings with their doctor, all the while with no information about how much they will have to pay and how much their insurance will cover. This app is supposed to empower the patient with the knowledge from the beginning of their treatment, and reduce their physical and emotional distress.

Target Users:

The app is targeted at Duke cancer patients. We expect a predominantly older demographic, but we would like younger cancer patients to make use of this app too. Additionally, we perceive that family members of patients, as well as doctors will use CostCoach.

Value:

This app aims to reduce treatment costs by providing patients with transparency and information which would lead them to seek and find the treatment options which are best suited to them. Ultimately, the app hopes to provide and encourage better financial (and treatment) planning for cancer patients. It will provide awareness so that patients can sufficiently utilize available resources to deal with their treatment, from an early stage.

Functionality:

This project's aim is to build a web app that will provide users with an estimate of the costs that patients will incur. Based on several user inputs relating to their diagnosis, the app makes use of data to calculate the estimated cost of treatment for this particular patient.

Technical Recommendation:

The client wants to use a Web App for this project. We believe a Web App is appropriate, as a user will use the app on an infrequent basis (expected 1-2 times a month).

The app will make use of data provided by Duke Health. The client and team will work with a statistician who will help with data manipulation to ensure the estimates are

accurate. The client will buy server space to store the data which will be used by the app.