**Abstract – Project – Py-neers**

Sail the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) (Sail the SHIP) is a project aimed at simplifying the complex world of health insurance for Carnegie Mellon University students. Many students struggle to understand their coverage, leading to underutilization of benefits or unexpected expenses. This project seeks to address this issue by creating a user-friendly tool that provides clear, concise information about the Highmark insurance plan.

The program will allow students to input specific health services they're inquiring about and receive instant, tailored information on coverage, co-pays, and in-network providers. By integrating CMU's Highmark insurance details with local healthcare pricing, the tool will offer a comprehensive view of potential costs and coverage. This will empower students to make informed decisions about their healthcare, potentially improving overall health outcomes and financial planning. Comparative behaviour of students is tracked using University provided student data and a survey (with permission) to understand the proportions of usage of CMU’s SHIP. Data analysis is conducted to understand the perceptions student’s have about CMU’s SHIP and this is accompanied by comparison to other similar providers. The program also allows the user to quickly contact CMU’s SHIP contacts in emergencies, get answers to questions related to CMU SHIP enrolment and administrative processes and lastly ask for meanings by inputting terms they have questions about.

The motivation behind this project stems from the recognition that health insurance complexity often deters students from seeking necessary care or leads to financial surprises. By providing easy access to critical insurance information, the program aims to enhance students' healthcare utilization and literacy. Ultimately, this tool could contribute to better health management and academic success for CMU students, aligning with the university's commitment to student well-being.

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