

Developing a Mobile App for Studies of Medication Safety

Sascha Dublin, MD, PhD August 2017



Mobile App Study Team

FDA

David Martin (PI)

Patient Partners

- Kacie Washington
- Karen Byeman

Harvard

- Juliane Reynolds
- Zac Wyner
- Chayim Herzig-Marx

KP Washington

- Sascha Dublin
- Pedja Klasnja
- Linda Kiel
- Catherine Lim
- Deryn Haug
- Ladia Albers-Junkans
- Several testers



Mobile App Study Team, cont.

ВТС	LabKey
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Outline

Patient Story

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Mobile App project

Patient Involvement and its Impact

Conclusion



Patient Story

"The first three months of my second pregnancy, I was really nauseous. It was debilitating. My doctor prescribed me some pills. I got them, but the idea that it was a prescription just freaked me out and I didn't want to put any foreign objects in my body. I don't know what it's going to do to the baby."

— New mother, Kaiser Permanente Washington



Background: Medications in Pregnancy

- For many medications, we lack adequate information about their safety in pregnancy
- Difficult for women and doctors to make decisions
- Existing study designs have limitations
- Would be a great step forward to be able to collect self-reported information from large numbers of women and link it with electronic health data
- Could a mobile app help us achieve this goal?



Background: FDA Sentinel Initiative

- National system to monitor the safety of medical products
 - Data mostly from insurance claims; some electronic medical records
- Large and representative population
 - 43 million patients with new data being accumulated
- Challenges similar to any large database study
 - Including limited data on pregnancy
- FDA Catalyst: aims to expand Sentinel infrastructure through interactions and interventions with patients and providers

Mobile App Project

- Goals
 - Develop a mobile app to collect data directly from patients
 - Develop a secure storage environment for app data that can be used by patients from multiple data partners
 - Recruit a cohort of pregnant women from a Sentinel Data Partner to use the app
 - Demonstrate ability to link app data with Sentinel data; conduct descriptive analyses
- Funding: US Department of Health and Human Services via the PCOR Trust Fund



Mobile App Project, cont.

- Provide app to women early in pregnancy
 - Asks about pregnancy history, risk factors, medication exposure
 - Aims to capture outcomes such as miscarriage
- Want to encourage sustained use throughout entire pregnancy
- How do we motivate women to use it consistently for many months?
- We sought patient involvement to make app more useful and engaging

Kaiser Permanente Washington

- Integrated healthcare delivery system in Northwestern US
- Formerly Group Health
- About 630,000 members
- Sentinel Data Partner and scientific collaborator



Patient Involvement

- Two patient advisors on team throughout the project
 - Received an honorarium
 - Initial brainstorming: suggested engagement features
 - Provided input and feedback on materials via phone and email (e.g., screenshots, surveys, recruitment brochure)
- Focus group during app development
 - 6 participants including our 2 patient advisors
 - Discussed engagement features; reviewed prototype



Feedback: Focus Group

"The app would be more engaging if it also included helpful information such as strategies for dealing with morning sickness, yoga stretches for back pain, foods to avoid, and a checklist of things to do as you get closer to the delivery date."

User Acceptability Testing

- 9 people including 2 patients
- Walked through all app screens and **functions**
- Found bugs and errors (e.g., skip patterns)
- Commented on process, flow, wording





Extended Trial of App

- At least 50 women using the app for about 4 months
- Assess uptake and persistence
- We will interview some women to understand their experiences with the app
- Began recruitment in ? (update with month when known)





Benefits of Patient Involvement

- Learn about how women use apps in pregnancy
- What is an acceptable burden for women?
 (Answer: 2-3 brief surveys per week)
- Input about all materials that are "patient facing"
 - E.g., survey questions and information about study
 - "Helped to translate the jargon we use here to be more accessible and clear"



Benefits, cont.

- Improve recruitment strategy
 - Understand what would motivate women to participate (Altruism!)
 - Contribute to study brochure
 - Participate in study video





Examples of Impact

- App Dashboard: describes activities completed
 - Simplified and focused on information useful to them
- Plan for 2 or 3 brief surveys per week
- Revised study materials including survey questions
- "Wish list" of ideas for future app development



Other Benefits

- Energizes and inspires study team
- Reminds us why we do this work





Learnings About Engaging Patients

- Involve patients early
 - When developing specifications
- Formalize involvement and be respectful of their time
 - Phone calls are convenient for study team but sometimes might be hard for patient advisors to follow
 - Focus groups allow more intense participation
- Email collaboration worked well



When Do You Need Patient Engagement?

- For studies that will require longer or more intense patient participation
- For engaging specific population, e.g. older adults
- To help with recruitment strategy and materials
- To make sure that a study participant's experience will be reasonable and clear and go smoothly



Conclusion

- Project aimed to develop a mobile app to collect information from patients
- We included patients as advisors to help us make the app more engaging – which hopefully will lead to better data and ultimately, better information about medication safety
- Extended trial of app began in ?early August; watch for results next year!

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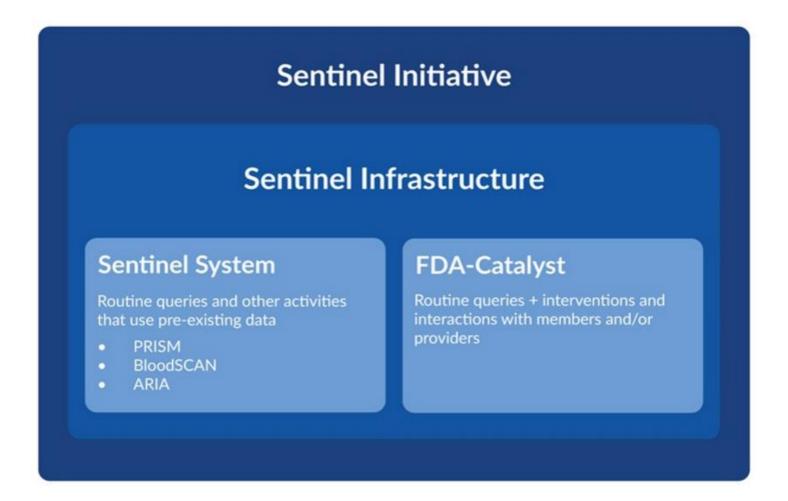
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Extra slides – may not use

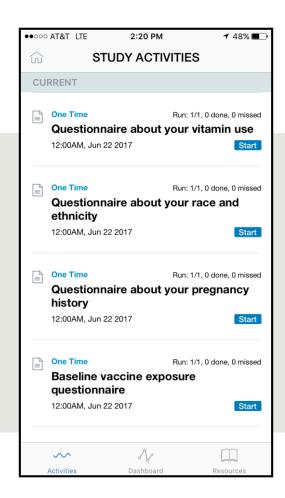


Background: FDA Sentinel Initiative



Screenshots from App









All Slides that follow are templates or extra –no plans to use them currently

- All bulleted copy is 24pt Arial Narrow
 - Second level bullets are 20pt Arial Narrow
- Bulleted copy has initial cap on first word only-no period at the end
- Bulleted copy should not exceed six bullet points
- Text highlights are **bold and light blue**



Why Engage Patients in Research?

- Learn what questions are most important to patients
 - What outcomes they care most about
 - What exposures or comparisons are most relevant
- Improve the study design and approach
 - E.g., recruitment and retention; study materials
- Plan for dissemination
 - How do the patients you want to reach access information?
 - What kinds of evidence matter to them?



Single Photo or Video Treatment





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