App Review: Pillboxie

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Targeting a large proportion of the world’s population dealing with the burden of managing multiple prescriptions and complicated treatment regimens, the new Pillboxie iPhone/iPod Touch app has a very simple function—to facilitate medication compliance. Developed by a Registered Nurse with the patient’s needs in mind, Jared Sinclair designed the Pillboxie app to be an easy to use and attractive visual reminder to help people manage their medications. Users schedule medication reminders by selecting a pill from a virtual pill cabinet and dropping it into a pillbox slot. Each slot serves as a specific time of day.

A short tutorial, which can be accessed at any time, kicks off the user’s Pillboxie experience. Following this is the virtual empty medicine cabinet, where users can start creating their medications by entering a name, appearance (various colors and shapes are available) and any pertinent notes for each. Once their medicine cabinet is complete, schedules can be set for each pill bottle. To do this, the user must select a medication and then click a Schedule button. Next, Times is chosen and the user drags a pill out of the selected medication bottle and drops it into the half-hour time slots of the pillbox at the bottom of the screen; each slot with a pill in it will be stored with a reminder. Reminders can be further customized by clicking on the Days button and selecting the desired setting. Once the user clicks Done, the data is stored and the user will receive notifications based on the schedules they have set. The reminders will keep coming until the user manually turns them off; and, the time the medication was taken gets saved in the history.

There are only four tabs to maneuver in this app: Due Today, Settings, Patient and Medications. The Due Today tab shows the current day’s medication schedule; the Settings tab allows users to customize their reminders, set a privacy mode and other options; the Patient tab allows users to enter personal information, to customize a reminder sound and to share history of medications taken (which can also be accessed through the Medications tab). Other unique buttons to note include a Share button, which will send the user’s history to others like physicians or family, a Prices button which helps the user find prices for medications and a Details button that shows actual information like dosage taken.

A closer look at the app and other user comments revealed only a few weaknesses. For instance, limited time option settings (only 30 minute increments), a lack of access to an expert IT company for any technical issues and also the inability to print the medication lists, thereby limiting patient-doctor communication. Most importantly, any possibility of app error could be life-threatening to the user. This isn’t truly a short-coming of the device, but it would be practical to encourage users to have a back-up plan in case of any problems encountered.

Bottom line – users don’t have to be super tech savvy to master this app. With great qualities that include the visually appealing interface, the capability for use by multiple people like families or couples, and notifications even when the device is sleeping, Pillboxie is a great value at $0.99. Pillboxie is designed to be sleek, simple and user-friendly from the get-go – which is exactly what an individual struggling with medication management needs.

Link: http://www.pillboxie.com/

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