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HEALTH BUDDY FOR HEALTH HERO NETWORK

Tabletop device to care for elderly or chronically ill

Health Hero Network's system lets health care providers give better care and improve patient comfort by allowing patients to stay connected to their doctors from home. At the center of the system is the Health Buddy, a small tabletop device that asks the patient a series of questions at periodic intervals about such topics as how they feel, their eating habits, and their medication. The answers are sent to a service center and accessed by a doctor using a web browser to track progress and detect potential problems.

IDEO gave Health Buddy an approachable design to ensure its acceptance by a wide audience. Its backlit LCD screen and simple interface are controlled by four large buttons on the front panel. It was developed using close observation with elderly patients, whose feedback helped determine such aspects as button placement, screen angle, and important interface issues.

Project date: 1998



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