Research Accelerator Program - Project Grant Shirley Ryan

Ability lab.

Project Grant Application

Please list all team members, their discipline, and department:

Annie Roche, SLP - Technology Center
Sabrina Sitkoski, RD - Assistant Director and Clinical Nutrition Manager

1. Briefly, what is your project idea?

We want to improve the process of meal ordering for patients with communication impairments and language differences. Our goal is to create visual and virtual menus that dietary staff can easily access and show to patients; patients can then point to make their selection rather than rely on staff to ask yes/no questions, family members to order, or staff to guess what the patient may want to eat.

2. What is the problem that your idea fixes?
Many patients within the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab have complex communication needs and frequently, these patients are not able to communicate to the host/hostess simple requests such as what they would like to have for breakfast. Providing a visual option will enable all patients to receive the food and drink they would actually like to eat. This will lead to increased patient satisfaction, reduced frustration, more efficient ordering, and improved oral intake of food.

3. How are you going to accomplish this (list the steps)?

1.Create visual menus on ipad using the Tobii Dynavox Snap Core First application ($49.99)
2. Train staff on how to access and navigate application with menus
3.Train staff on how to present menus to patients with communication impairments or language differences

4. What help do you need?

We need financial assistance to buy the application and assistance from IT to install the application on the Food Service ipads. We also need dedicated and protected time to create the menus and train staff on the use. We need assistance on gathering data on how implementing this tool will improve patient and staff satisfaction.

Please attach the following items to this application:

1. A sketch or picture of the idea

2. A resume of each participant

Related Lists: Food & Drink

Please note, that we would like to use real photos and that we would orgnize the folders by weeks/days to match the "My Dining" application that staff use to record the orders.

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Related List: Drinks