

Caregiver Technology Solutions

47 Technologies that can Assist Caregivers of Older Adults







Communicate and Coordinate Care

Why?

Caregiving takes a team and a primary caregiver is like the team captain. It can be difficult to manage this team of family, friends, and medical providers. These technologies seek to help the primary caregiver with organizing and tracking care.

Key:





www.carezone.com

CareZone simplifies the lives of those caring for partners and aging parents through a private profile available on the website or app. Caregivers can manage scheduling, keep a "care journal" and upload pictures.

For the caregiver who needs to coordinate multiple "helpers" for the care of a loved one.



Accessible via both smartphone and the internet. No smartphone needed.



This app has no way to set reminders.



Free, available through iTunes, Google Play or from www.carezone.com - Available on the internet or with Apple or Android devices





Balance: for Alz Caregivers

This smartphone app allows multiple caregivers to coordinate/communicate among each other and to email physicians directly with symptoms and behavior concerns. This app also providers info on the latest research about Alzheimer's disease.

For the caregiver who cares for a loved one with Alzheimer's Disease.



This app is created specifically to help caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease.



Patient profile information is limited, the app lacks a contact list, shareable to-do list and file storage capacity.



\$0.99, available for Apple devices through the Apple iTunes store.

UnfrazzledCare www.unfrazzledcare.com

This website and smartphone app allows caregivers to customize journals that track symptoms or send reminders. It allows caregivers to track tasks and share some or all of them with other caregivers who use the app.

For the caregiver who is overwhelmed and needs assistance with scheduling tasks and reminders.



This app has robust privacy controls to protect your data.



The interface is not as intuitive as its competitors.



Free, available through the Apple iTunes store for Apple Devices, not available for Android devices.



Mango Health

This app allows caregivers and individuals to track medication intake. It identifies dangerous medication and food interactions, provides reminders and offers real-world rewards for taking medication on time.

For the caregiver who needs to track multiple medications, doses, and potential interactions throughout the day.



Very user-friendly and easy customization. User can earn points for taking medications which can be redeemed for gift cards.



No way to share tracked data with others. No way to track care recipients symptoms or medication side effects.



Free, available through the Apple iTunes store for Apple Devices.





CaptionCall

Is a new phone service for anyone with hearing difficulties. CaptionCall offers customizable quality sound with amplification plus smooth scrolling captions of what callers say on a large screen display.



Any one with hearing loss can be approved for a CaptionCall system at no cost to them with certification from a health professional. No monthly fees or hidden costs.



Both a standard home phone line and internet connection are required to use this service.



Order CaptionCall by calling: (877) 557-2227 or by visiting www.captioncallprovider.com

No monthly cost to users for the service or setup with certification of hearing challenges from a health care professional.





Caremerge Family App

This app allows caregivers to communicate and coordinate with those living in senior communities. Staff can interact with each other while other offsite stakeholders (doctors, family members, etc.) organize timely care.

For the caregiver who needs to coordinate care with senior community staff and other care providers.



This app allows families to coordinate care from a distance. This app is also HIPPA compliant.



Free, available through the Apple iTunes store for Apple Devices.



Caregivers Touch

This comprehensive app has the ability to manage care for up to 6 people. It allows the caregiver to upload and store; general personal information on the care recipient, a care journal, a calendar, medication schedule, insurance information, a contact list, medical history and other important documents such as power of attorney, living wills and advanced directives.

For the caregiver who wants an "all in one" app to assist with the care for one or more people.



This app was designed by two families with caregiving experience, and has everything a caregiver could need in one place.



This app is expensive and to take advantage of most of the features it must be used in tandem with the internet based website.



Available for Apple devices through the Tunes store for \$4.99 or through the internet at \$19.95/month or \$199.95/year. Not available for Android devices.

This is not an exhaustive list of technologies. The AAA 1-B received no financial incentive from the highlighted technologies. Free to reproduce and distribute.



www.aaa1b.com

1-800-852-7795



Financial Assistance

Why?

Being a primary caregiver often means handling the financial interests of the care recipient in addition to one's own. Unexpected out of pocket costs, limited resources and mixing family and finances can present many challenges. These technologies seek to provide access to available programs and services to help a care recipient maximize their resources and help the caregiver to manage their loved one's financial situation.

Key:



Online Banking and Bill Pay



Many financial institutions provide an option for account holders to set up online banking, and pay their bills online directly from a checking or savings account. This can save time, energy and money by preventing late fees and saving on postage.

For the caregiver who assists in the management of their loved one's finances.



Accessible via both smartphone and the internet. No smartphone needed.



Options, availability and fees vary by institution.



Many institutions encourage online bill paying and offer it for free. Check with your institution for details.



BenefitsCheckUp asks a series of questions to help identify benefits that could save money and cover the costs of everyday expenses. After answering the questions, a report is created that describes the programs may offer help. Many of the programs can be applied for online.

Types of help: Medications, Food, Utilities, Legal, Health care, Housing, In-home services, Taxes, Transportation, Employment training,

For the caregiver who wants to maximize their loved one's benefits.



Accessible via both smartphone and the internet. No smartphone needed.



Must have access to loved ones documents for accuracy.



Free, available online at www.benefitscheckup.org



Representative Payees is a person who acts as the receiver of Social Security, Disability or Supplemental Security Income for a person who is not fully capable of managing their own benefits The Social Security Representative Payee Program provides and online system to apply to become a representative payee. The system also allows payees to complete and submit their accounting reports online.

For the caregiver who is concerned about their loved ones ability to manage their benefits.



This app has unprecedented privacy controls to protect your data.



Sshould only be used when an individual is incapable of managing their finances.



Free, available through www.ssa.gov/payee/



MiCAFE, or Michigan's Coordinated Access to Food for the Elderly, is a program of Elder Law of Michigan that provides benefit application assistance to seniors age 60 and older, helping them make ends meet and put healthy food on their table. MiCAFE is an educational and community-centered program.

In 2014, MiCAFE served nearly 2,400 seniors with application assistance, nutrition screening and service referrals. 85% of the households that applied were eligible for assistance. On average, clients received \$113 per month in food assistance benefits. Overall, \$4.9 million in food assistance benefits came to Michigan seniors that applied through MiCAFE.

For the caregiver who wants to maximize their loved ones benefits and finances.



Many local MiCAFE community volunteers provide application assistance to ensure accuracy and efficiency.



Free, call 877.664.2233, to start the application process and find the nearest MiCAFE site



Mint.com and the Mint mobile app provide an all-in-one, safe and secure place for easy budgeting, simple categorization, investment tracking, credit monitoring and alerts and advice. Users cans see all balances and transactions in an easy to use dashboard in real time to help guide their finances and budgeting.

For the caregiver looking to track, monitor and budget either their own, or their care recipients finances.



Tracks and gives a strong overview of where and on what users are spending their money.



With 3.6 of 5 stars on Amazon with more than 500 reviews, users discuss customer service and incompatibility with their finanical institutions as concerns.



Free setup, available as a mobile app or website based.

This is not an exhaustive list of all technologies. The AAA 1-B received no financial incentive from the highlighted technology providers. Free to copy

PAYTRUST

Backed by Intuit, PayTrust is an easy way to receive, pay and track all your bills online. PayTrust completely eliminates the paperwork of paying bills by receiving your mailed bills for you. Paper bills are sent to a PayTrust Processing Center and scanned for posting to your account. Electronic bills arrive directly to your account. You can then view all your bills in PayTrust, and pay with one click.

For the caregiver who wants to save time managing either or both their own, and their care recipients finances.



Accessible via both smartphone and the internet. No smartphone needed.



Based upon 53 Yelp reviews, customers gave PayTrust 2 out of 5 stars. Concerns were mostly customer service based.



\$9.95 per month, with your first month free. You can access PayTrust at www.paytrust.intuit.com







Health Care Services

Why?

To be an effective caregiver, one must have an understanding of their loved one's health conditions. Keeping track of medications, vital signs and professional services can be challenging, these technologies aim to simplify the collection and monitoring of health information.

Key:





MedMinder

MedMinder is an example of a medication management and dispensing device. There are several types available. MedMinder is a wireless pill box that reminds individuals to take their medication and sends real-time information to caregivers if pills have not been taken.

For the caregiver who is concerned about the management of their loved ones medication.



Audible and visual reminders help hearing impaired or low vision users. MedMinder accommodates medication for 7 days with up to 4 doses per day.



30 day money back guarantee, no long term contracts. Monthly fee and prices differ by amenities selected.

MYNEXUS &

myNEXUS™ is a technology driven, connected care management service that manages an individual's health, enabling them to live healthier lives in their homes. The myNEXUS™ remote digital health system, remotely monitors the patient's health status daily and using a proven clinical model, provides immediate responses to identified issues to avoid common, costly healthcare visits

For the caregiver who wants help monitoring and tracking their loved ones chronic conditions.



A great tool for caregivers who are trying to manage many complex medical or care needs.



Cost information is custom to a users needs. Available at www.mynexuscare.com



Telehealth Systems

CST's TeleHealth System wirelessly captures vital sign information including Blood Pressure & Glucose Levels, Weight, SpO2 & Temperature. The subscriber's caregiver, physician or family members can access the information remotely at any time, and are alerted when any levels are outside the subscriber's predetermined parameters and personal care plan. I

For the caregiver who is seeking peace of mind from both falls and wandering.



This app has unprecedented privacy controls to protect your data.



Free set-up and training, monthly subscription and cost depends on amenities selected.

Blood Pressure Companion



The Blood Pressure Companion App enables users to track blood pressure, heart rate and weight in one convenient location.

For the caregiver who needs to track their loved ones blood pressure on a regular basis.



Easy to use and records can be printed off in PDF format for easy sharing with your physician.



Lacks a reminder feature which could be useful for collecting vital sign data at regular times or intervals.



Free app available for Apple and Android devices.



Health Dashboard

A program of SameAddress, the d-Care health dashboard offers a single source for all health, assessment and home services information in one convenient and easily accessible location.

For the caregiver who wants to track and manage all their loved ones services.



One stop/location on health and home services information.



Best used in conjunction with a behavioral therapist



Pricing varies on services and amenities selected. Coming winter of 2016...



Health Portals

Patient portals offer a secure online website that gives patients 24-hour access to personal health information from anywhere with an Internet connection. Patients can view health information such as: recent doctor visits, discharge summaries, medications/immunizations, allergies, lab results.

Some patient portals also allow patients to: exchange secure email with their health care teams, request prescription refills, schedule non-urgent appointments, check benefits and coverage, update contact information, make payments, download and complete forms and view educational material.

For the caregiver who wants to keep track of their loved ones health information and related services.



One place to stay on top of your health care needs.



Availability depends on health care and insurance providers.



Many health providers and insurance companies offer health portals at no cost. Check with your providers.

This is not an exhaustive list of technologies. The AAA 1-B received no financial incentive from the highlighted technologies. Free to reproduce and distribute.







Information and Resources

Why?

The most frequent need expressed by family caregivers is for information on resources and solutions that are needed to meet the diverse variety of challenges that caregivers face.

Key:





SIRI



available on iphone

Allows user to ask questions about services and locations via iphone smartphone.

For the caregiver who is seeking information at a moment's notice.



Easy to access with one-touch button on iphone



Must afford iphone, which can be cost prohibitive. Cannot answer complex questions.



Requires iphone and a monthly service plan, costs vary



A Place for Mom.com

Provides information and referral for various assisted housing options for older adults.

For the caregiver who is seeking local senior living options for aging parents or spouse



Endorsed my many local well-known senior housing facilities



Only provides information on facilities that pay A Place for Mom for a referral



Free to customer, facility pays a referral fee

aing care.com



www.agingcare.com

Provides information on home care options, senior living options, and caregiver support.

For the caregiver who is seeking peer support and online answers anonymously.



Question and answer section and blog are helpful for communicating with pthers instead of just reading posts The interface is not as intuitive as its competitors.



Free online



www.intouchtablets.com

a tablet computer that allows ability to surf the internet, read, play,games, maintain a calendar and communicate with others.

For the caregiver who wants their loved one to maintain their independence in seeking information.



Designed for seniors by seniors, with one-touch, large button access



More costly than many tablets. requires gross motor skills to hold use tablet at same time.



Free, available through the Apple iTunes store for Apple Devices.



An online guide to evaluating and selecting a quality home care agency in southeast Michigan that features consumer ratings of agencies.

For the caregiver who wants to see consumer ratings for home care agencies



All agencies rated meet the quality standards of the Area Agency on Aging 1-B. Many educational articles on various aspects of eldercare and caregiving. Discount offers.



Some listed agencies do not have ratings yet, no pricing informaton



Free to user, no registration required unless visitor intends to rate a home care agency



Provides information and referral for legal, mobility, housing, adult day care and housing options.

For the caregiver who is seeking information about housing, home health care, legal assistance, adult day care centers, mobility and transportation needs and other resources.



Offers a blog



May not have referral resources in all communities



Free



Facebook

A social communication utility that provides the user with the ability to connect with others of similar interests or ties

For the caregiver who is seeking socialization and information about community events, solutions to caregiving challenges, resources and/or peer support...



Ability to connect to people in various locations learn of community events, and receive information



Facebook can get congested with irrelevant information if connections are made with too many people or interests, and personal privacy is sacrificed



Free to internet users







Legal and Planning

Why?

Caregiving can prompt many legal questions such as medical or financial decision making and end of life planning. Navigating care and planning for the future is essential as it can ease caregiver stress and ensure the wishes and desires of the care recipient are met.

Key:





www.justanswer.com

JustAnswer is a website that offers consumers access to experts on a variety of categories, including lawyers and other professionals. Users select their category, enter their question, answer some qualifying questions, and select a price based on urgency and level of detail required.

For the caregiver who wants online access to legal advice and has flexibility in responsiveness.



Easy to use, informative, and money back guarantee. Excellent way to get legal advice at a moderate cost.



Not designed specifically for caregivers, and quality of legal advice is untested.



Users required to place a deposit equal to the value of your question when question is submitted. Price level can be selected.







A website with resources on legal issues that relate to business and personal matters, including wills and trusts, power of attorney, property transfers, and other personal and family matters. Individuals can crate their own legal documents using templates at an affordable price.

For the caregiver who wants to create simple legal documents without the assistance of an attorney.



Simplicity, cost and guidance. Forms are created by answering questions. Lifetime customer support at no additional cost.



Not specifically designed for caregivers of older adults or adults with a disability



Costs vary. Examples: Living Will starting at \$39; Power of Attorney starting at \$35



www.caregiverslibrary.org

This website is an extensive library for caregivers with hundreds of articles, forms, checklists organized by topic, including a section on caregiver legal matters.

For the caregiver who is looking for simple, easy-tounderstand reference information on legal matters related to caregiving.



One of largest single sources of information and tools for caregivers with lots of articles on legal issue.



Web site type and font makes content difficult to read for anyone who has vision difficulty



Free to anyone with internet access

This is not an exhaustive list of technologies. The AAA 1-B received no financial incentive from the highlighted technologies. Free to reproduce and distribute.



Caregiver Health

Why?

A caregiver's health is just as important as the health of the care recipient. Factors related to caregiving can and do have negative health consequences for the caregiver. These technologies are designed to help caregivers, monitor, track and improve their own health.

Key:





Sports Tracker is a free smartphone app which allows users to track workouts of various kinds while providing metrics such as workout duration, distance, speed and pace. Sports Tracker keeps a record of all of your workouts in a convenient place.

For the caregiver who wants to stay active.



With a social media feature, users can share their workouts with friends. There are also available accessories such as a heart monitor and bike mount.



Free membership, however there is a paid option for a premium subscription. Available for Apple and Android devices or from www.sports-tracker.com.

Relax Melodies



Allow users to select from a variety of nature sounds and soothing music. Users can create a play list, and add a sleep timer to automatically shut the music off.

For the caregiver who may need to take a mental break.



Available for free as a smartphone app.



The free membership offers limited song choices.



Free for Apple and Android devices.
Available at:

http://www.ipnossoft.com/app/relax-melodies/.

WebMD Health Manager

WebMD Health Manager website provides a place to store personal health records and documents. It offers exercise, sleep, weight, blood pressure, medication, mood, heart rate, respiration and calorie burned trackers.

For the caregiver who wants to stay healthy, or improve their own health.



Allows users to track numerous measures in one location. Offers preventive service reminders and pre-doctor visit questionnaire to help users make the most of their doctor visits.



Not available as a smartphone app. Must have access to a computer and internet connection.



Free registration at: www.webmd.com/phr



My Fitness Pal

My Fitness Pal offers a calorie counter and a diet tracker in addition to a place to record your workouts. A bar-code scanner provides for fast and simple nutrition tracking.

For the caregiver who wants to track and manage their fitness and nutrition.



Can connect to fit devices such as a step tracker. Easy reminders help users to remember to record their meals.



The app is not as intuitive as it could be, however the website does have a good data entry feature.



Available for free for Apple and Android devices.







Safety, Security & Stress
Management

Why?

Knowing that your loved one is safe can help to ease any caregiving situation. Having resources to help with self-care and stress management supports a positive caregiving relationship. These technologies offer both safety monitoring and peace of mind for both the caregiver and care recipient.

Key:





Virtually There Care

A monitored camera system provides remote camera viewing and audible communications that enable caregivers to check in on, and communicate with their loved ones with a click of a mouse.

For the caregiver who may be providing care from a distance, or who wants to easily connect with their loved ones.



Tailored to an individuals needs, this system can decrease the need for paid caregivers or daily check-ins.



The care recipient may have privacy concerns.



30 day money back guarantee, no long term contracts. Monthly fee and prices differ by amenities selected.



Fall Detection LED Bulbs

LED Smart Light Bulb uses a radar frequency to detect when someone has fallen by monitoring the distance between someone's head and the bulb. An alert is sent to either a caregiver or professional monitoring service if a fall has been detected.

For the caregiver who is concerned about a loved one falling.



This bulb can respond even if the person who has fallen cannot.



Pricing information not yet available. Expected for sale in fall of 2015.





Fall Detection Personal Emergency Response System

Mobile Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) are cellular-enabled and designed to provide services at or away from home, and even in the shower. Mobile PERS use GPS satellites to find subscriber's and fall detection is available on this two-way voice communication device.

For the caregiver who is seeking peace of mind from both falls and wandering.



This app has unprecedented privacy controls to protect your data.



Free set-up and training, monthly subscription and cost depends on amenities selected.



Online Support Groups

Caring.om offers more than 60 online support groups and message boards with topics ranging from providing care to a loved one with dementia to end of life support.

For the caregiver who needs support, has questions, or wants to share their story.



Easy, user friendly and strong community guidelines provide a safe space for caregivers to get tips, advice and support.



As with any online forum, the quality of responses is subject to those who participate. Each caregiving context is different and advice may not be appropriate or applicable to the situation.



Free but requires access to the internet. www.caring.com/support-groups



UBER

Transportation Solutions

Is a smartphone app that provides transportation services with the push of a button. Great for errands, doctor appointments or trips to the grocery store.

For the caregiver who is seeking transportation solutions for their loved ones or themselves.



Fast, affordable transportation solution with real-time information on pick-up time and estimated cost. No money changes hands, payments are electronic and automatic.



Though UBER vets their drivers, complaints of abuses have occurred.



Free app available for Apple and Android devices. Cost per ride each way varies on distance and real-time demand. Must be linked to an electronic payment method such as a credit or debit card.



Virtual Hope Box

Designed by the Department of Defense for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, it is gaining widespread usage for its simple tools to help with coping, relaxing, distraction from stressors, and positive thinking.

For the caregiver who can recognize their own stress triggers to help develop coping strategies.



Provides many personalized tools for coping with stress



Best used in conjunction with a behavioral therapist



Free app, available for Apple and Android devices.

CaregiverStress.com

Care for yourself while caring for an aging loved one.

Caregivers Stress Management

This website provided by Home Instead Senior Care provides information and resources to help caregivers with their own self-care. Recognizing that caregiver stress impacts the quality of care provided and the quality of life of the caregiver, this website promotes caregiver health and wellness to support and prolong the caregiving process.

For the caregiver who may feel overwhelmed by their caregiving responsibilities.



Free, expert resources to support the family caregiver



This website may be seen as a marketing tool for Home Instead Senior Care



Free, requires access to the internet. www.caregiverstress.com

This is not an exhaustive list of technologies. The AAA 1-B received no financial incentive from the highlighted technologies. Free to reproduce and distribute.







Training and Education

Why?

Research shows that access to supportive services such as information and resources can help to reduce caregiver stress and delay or prevent the institutionalization of a care recipient, providing a real value to family and other unpaid caregivers.

Key:



alzheimer's 8

www.alz.org

This website features e-learning options and a Caregiver Center with practical and planning information, message boards, online tools, and connections to local Alzheimer's Association chapters.

For the caregiver who is caring for someone with Alzheimer's Disease or a dementia.



Breaks down some training based on the stage of dementia.



Nothing. Even their 24 hour help line is answered promptly by a live person!



Some training and information is free, but other options have a cost or require registration.



FAMILY CAREGIVER ALLIANCE® National Center on Caregiving

www.caregiver.org
This website offers plenty of information and training

This website offers plenty of information and training opportunities on a large number of issues facing caregivers. Offerings include free webinars, links to training videos, and dozens of fact and tip sheets.

For the caregiver who is seeking information and hands on training information online.



Archived webinars are free and can be viewed at any time



Many offerings like classes, support groups and newsletter are localized to their San Francisco area.



Information and training is free,



Real Possibilities

www.aarp.org

The AARP website includes a caregiver resource center with a lot of practical information on a variety of caregiving issues, and is frequently updated.

For the caregiver who needs to coordinate multiple "helpers" for the care of a loved one.



The online community has a message board where caregivers can ask questions and get responses from experts and advice from other caregivers.



Site is very large and confusing, not easy to find caregiving section.



Free access, but visitors are subject to advertising for many of the AARP sponsored products and services.



www.easterseals.com



The Easter Seals website has a services for caregiver page that provides recent studies, informative articles, and webinars for caregivers. Some of these resources include planning for caregiving, caregiving for a veteran, and long-distance caregiving.

For the caregiver that is interested in recent studies



This website provides a variety of resources for caregiver education with both webinars and written reports



While the caregiver page is geared towards caregivers of older adults, the rest of the site is structured for disability issues.



Free information and webinars





This website has many great resources for caregivers, but their Family Caregiver Toolbox is a great resource for caregiver education options. There are webinars, assessments, articles, studies, and search engines for services in your local community

For the caregiver that wants information about a lot of tools and services



This website has a lot to offer whether you want to watch a webinar, read a study, or search for services



The layout of the toolbox page can be confusing



No cost, every resource on the Caregiver Action Network website is free

deocaregi

a visual education center for family caregiver

www.videocaregiving.org

This website from Terra Nova Films offers informational videos about caregiving. The videos range from basic caregiving skills to specific skills such as caring for a loved one with dementia.

For the caregiver that is a visual learner



There are a lot of videos on various caregiving topics which means little reading



This website only has videos, but no written resources. The videos have good information, but look dated.



All vidoes are free

Family Caregivers Online

Education & Resources for Caregivers

www.familycaregiversonline.net

This website is dedicated to providing caregiver education online and has very detailed information about caregiver issues.

For the caregiver that wants a lot of specific information



The website encourages users to suggest new content for the website by emailing the creators of the site.



All information is written out with no webinar options, making for a lot of reading



All information on this site is free

This is not an exhaustive list of technologies. The AAA 1-B received no financial incentive from the highlighted technologies. Free to reproduce and distribute.







October 2015



Area Agency on Aging 1-B (AAA 1-B) is pleased to present this booklet as a resource for caregivers in Southeast Michigan. AAA 1-B is committed to serving older adults, their families, and their caregivers in our area.







(+)

Acknowledgement



Special thanks to the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights (MRCC) for funding the printing of the Caregiver Technology Solutions booklet. The MRCC represents over 13,000 skilled tradesmen and women throughout the state. The MRCC is very active in the community, particularly as volunteers building handicap ramps. These home modifications ensure that older adults and disabled residents live safely in their homes for as long as possible.





