PATENT SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

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Abstract

Text4Life USSD is a software service designed to provide intervention to pregnant women in labour distress or pregnancy complication delivered to end users though Unstructured supplementary service data (USSD) application accessible via mobile phones. The service also provides pregnant women relevant information regarding mother and child health during pregnancy.

Description of the invention

Technical field: This invention relates to telemedicine, reporting systems and in particular to registering users and reporting cases of pregnancy labour and complication.

Background of the invention

Some existing telemedicine systems and applications, such as Tremendoc and DRO Health, offers virtual medical care experiences. Users are also usually required to subscribe to a plan to use these services.

Summary of the Invention: The purpose of this software is to report health and labour complications in pregnant women and to seek immediate and effective intervention of health facilitators. This invention improves on existing models and findings in that it is action based as opposed to information based system in which no real time intervention is provided to users. The invention is a proven success of providing health care services through USSD. It delivers action-oriented health care accessibility. Remarkably implementing Internet independence telemedicine and the analytical capabilities of the software available to healthcare facilitators makes it stand out.

Detailed Description of the Invention: The system takes input from the user using a USSD interface following a prompt, usually a sequence of numbers and symbols through the phone dialer or pre-stored in the user's contact. The system determines user phone number automatically using a built-in functionality that reads the parameter as a variable from the network service provider.

After the user dials the code, the software automatically collects the user's phone number and a unique alphanumeric session number traceable to that USSD session only. This set of information are sent into a remotely connected SQL database which is secured by SSL where they are stored.

Each code input by the user is expanded into a set of strings which the software can act upon. From the user input, the software determines the user's choice and performs the next action from a bouquet of options.

A user may choose to either register as a new user or to proceed with the relevant report. If the former is the case, the software prompts user to input the necessary information to enrol them in the software database. If the user chooses to report, the software prompts them for another set of questions. Once the required information is input, the software stores the data in a database.

The required information from the user includes their location information and the condition they would like to report.

Using the collected information, after a report, the software will save the data in the database and notify the user of success or otherwise of the session.

Following a successful completion of the session, three actions are notified with SMS text. The text contains the details of the user report.

The software triggers the SMS sending using an API provided by a SMS service provider.

At the end of the USSD session the software harnesses this feature to notify the patient and the health facilitators via USSD.

A distinct software module (a desktop/computer) is used to monitor user activities on the software and its response.

Claims:

a. A software service designed to provide intervention to pregnant women in labour distress or pregnancy complication delivered to end users though Unstructured supplementary service data (USSD) application accessible via mobile phones. The method comprising:

    receiving a USSD prompt from a mobile phone, the USSD prompt containing user information and required intervention;

    processing the received USSD prompt into Short Message Service (SMS) communication sent to facilitators;

    generating a notification of successful input to the user via USSD prompt and SMS

b. The method of claim a, wherein distress call is received through a USSD prompt
c. The method of claim a, wherein the received prompt is processed into SMS communication by the software
d. The method of claim a, wherein the notification is delivered to the user via a USSD prompt and SMS