

A Longitudinal Study of Information Needs and Practices for Maternal Fetal Care
IRB# 141813

SPECIFIC AIM 1: Describe the characteristics, capacities, and beliefs of pregnant patients and their caregivers. We will enroll a diverse set of pregnant patients and caregivers from the VCWH group prenatal care program and the FCV to assess the participants' characteristics, capacities, and beliefs using validated surveys and interviews. We will examine demographics, socioeconomic factors, health literacy, numeracy, stress level, locus of control, technology usage and skills, sleepiness, mood, and the home environment. The primary products of Aim 1 will be a comprehensive description of these healthcare consumers (i.e., user profiles) to whom medical information could be delivered through HIT.

SPECIFIC AIM 2: Characterize health information needs and information management practices. We will elucidate health information needs, management strategies, and preferences through interviews, journaling activities, and with participant permission, analysis of use of other information spaces such as blogs or web sites. We will determine the types of information needs, the contexts in which they occur, whether needs are met, and the resources used to meet them. The primary products of Aim 2 will be a comprehensive taxonomy of consumer health information needs, a detailed description of the influence of contexts on information needs and practices, a diverse collection of use scenarios relevant to design and evaluation of consumer HIT, and a catalog of best practices and design guidelines to enable HIT to address consumer health information needs.

SPECIFIC AIM 3: Examine the use of the My Health At Vanderbilt (MHAV) patient portal and other information spaces to meet health information needs. Participants will be trained to use MHAV, and we will analyze their usage of the MHAV portal to meet information needs. With we will also examine usage of other information spaces as described in Aim 2. We will correlate participant characteristics, capacities, and beliefs with needs, information management strategies, and MHAV and other resource usage (and non-usage) patterns. The primary product of this Aim will be a rigorous understanding of the strengths and shortcomings of patient portals and other information sources for addressing consumer health information needs in various contexts. This Aim will further inform additional best practices and design guidelines for consumer HIT.