

Executive Summary

Reliq Health (Reliq) is looking to partner with the government of Canada to further its work as a young, innovative Canadian health technology company that has developed a solution for the \$20B community healthcare market. Reliq's revolutionary technology will increase productivity for Canadians and Canadian businesses and organizations, while helping the government provide better access to health care for Canada's Indigenous populations and Canadians living in remote areas.

Reliq is a rapidly growing health technology company focused on developing innovative mobile health (mHealth), care collaboration and telemedicine solutions for Community-Based Healthcare. Its virtual care platform uses a high tech, low touch approach to provide high quality healthcare in the community setting, while reducing the cost of health care delivery.

In an effort to continue to promote economic growth, and recognizing that more productive people are more productive and competitive businesses can lead to enhanced growth and prosperity, Reliq is pleased to participate in the 2018 pre-budget consultation process and appreciates the opportunity to share with the members of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance, our priorities for the 2018 federal budget.

Reliq's success will facilitate economic productivity because its own story is one of innovation, resourcefulness, and impact.

Canadians are united in our desire for a strong health care system. In fact, an Ekos poll conducted prior to the 2015 federal election showed that most Canadians view health care as a top priority. Reliq shares this view and is positioned to help improve health care for Canadians in both urban and remote regions of the country.

Reliq recognizes that Canadians appreciate the connection between improved health and increased economic productivity and competitiveness. There is also a direct link to productive and competitive businesses and organizations and productive Canadians.

Through a partnership with the Canadian government, Reliq could expedite and scale its software as a service and patented hardware system which turns a patient's home into a virtual hospital ward, using a two-way voice technology hub, proximity sensors and wearable biometric monitoring devices. By partnering with the government of Canada to create a pilot program for Indigenous communities, Reliq would use its patented iUGO platform to improve health delivery and improve health care access for Indigenous people.

With the creation of the pilot program, patients using Reliq's iUGO Care technology platform would receive audible reminders to take medications and use Bluetooth-enabled biometric devices to measure vitals. Any data collected from the patient is automatically uploaded to the iUGO Care secure cloud where it is available to all members of the patient's circle of care. Patients and families can use iUGO Care to access educational videos, review self-care instructions and contact care team members through secure messaging or virtual visits.

Given Canada's vast geography and commitment to provide quality health care to every Canadian, Reliq's is a company worthy of a government partnership.

This pre-budget submission addresses the key themes the committee is focusing on: productivity and competitiveness. Reliq is confident these budgetary recommendations will help the Finance Committee and Government of Canada reach their objectives in preparation of Budget 2018.

Reliq's recommendations is that:

The government of Canada contributes \$1 million in funding to create a pilot project to use new health technology to monitor and improve health care in Indigenous communities in Canada.

Considerations

Aboriginal Health Issues

The Federal Indian Health policy is based on the special relationship of the Indigenous people to the Federal Government.¹ It recognizes the circumstances under which many Indigenous communities exist, which have placed these communities at a grave disadvantage compared to most other Canadians in terms of health.²

According to the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health, significant health disparities exist between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.³ Aboriginal health policy in Canada is complicated and consists of agreements with all levels of governments depending on the region of Canada. In many cases, these complicated policies have led to inadequate and inequitable health care and services for Indigenous people.⁴

Policy for federal programs for Indigenous people, flows from constitutional and statutory provisions, treaties and customary practice. However these communities are not provided with the same opportunity to take advantage of technology as Canadians living in other parts of the country.⁵

In that respect, whether addressing health care in Indigenous communities or in Canadians cities, there is growing concern that the current model for health care is not sustainable. In

¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/about-health-canada/branches-agencies/first-nations-inuit-health-branch/indian-health-policy-1979.html>

² <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/about-health-canada/branches-agencies/first-nations-inuit-health-branch/indian-health-policy-1979.html>

³ http://www.nccah-ccnsa.ca/Publications/Lists/Publications/Attachments/101/abororiginal_health_web.pdf

⁴ http://www.nccah-ccnsa.ca/Publications/Lists/Publications/Attachments/101/abororiginal_health_web.pdf

⁵ <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/about-health-canada/branches-agencies/first-nations-inuit-health-branch/indian-health-policy-1979.html>

addition to non-sustainable funding, the following problems exist in Canada's health care system:

Health care costs continue to rise: Chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, congestive heart failure, and COPD account for >80% of all health care costs.

Poor Health Outcomes: Patients must manage chronic conditions on their own at home, leading to complications, ER visits, and readmissions.

Readmissions Cost the Healthcare System: 20% of all patients are readmitted to hospitals within 30 days of discharge.

Fragmented Care Teams: Discharged patients have a diverse, disconnected care team.

Inefficient Communication: Care team communication consists of antiquated methods of communication (fax, phone, paper charts) and patients and family members are often left out of the loop.

High Costs of Care Delivery: Current model for home care is very "high touch" and relies on increasingly scarce and expensive human resources (nurses, PSWs, etc.). The average in-home caregiver cost ranges from \$2,000-10,000 per patient, per month.

Our Solution

Reliq Health's iUGO Care software platform and hardware turns the patient's home into a "virtual hospital ward" using a two-way voice technology hub, proximity sensors and wearable biometric monitoring devices. Our solution costs less than \$200/patient/month, reducing the cost of in-home care by over 90%. Further, by specifically addressing the chronic disease population and reducing the complications that lead to ER visits and hospital admissions, the iUGO Care solution has the potential to reduce healthcare spending in Canada by an order of magnitude.

The iUGO Care Solution

- An interactive voice technology platform provides patients with audible reminders throughout the day to take their medications and measure their vitals using Bluetooth-enabled biometric devices, ensuring medication compliance and instantly alerting the clinical care team if medication doses are missed or abnormal vital signs are detected.
- Data collected in the home is automatically uploaded to the iUGO Care secure cloud where it is available to all members of the patient's circle of care, keeping clinicians, patients and family members in the loop.
- Patients and families can use iUGO Care to access educational videos, review self-care instructions and contact care team members through secure messaging or virtual visits.

Reliq Health's software platform is a secure cloud-based portal for real-time care coordination, collaboration and secure communication between the patient, family and clinical care team.



The Benefits

The iUGO Care platform was designed to facilitate care coordination and home healthcare by integrating wearables, sensors, voice technology, intuitive mobile apps and desktop user interfaces for patients, families, clinicians and healthcare administrators. iUGO Care allows complex patients to receive high quality care at home, improving health outcomes, enhancing quality of life for patients and families and reducing the cost of care delivery. Our platform provides real-time access to remote patient monitoring data, allowing for timely interventions by the care team to prevent costly hospital readmissions and ER visits.

iUGO Care is a next generation platform for chronic disease management and remote patient monitoring. It features:

Integrated Devices: Reliq has developed a software suite that works with the latest Bluetooth devices in mHealth to capture vital signs remotely. Reliq's platform is designed to address a variety of chronic conditions and post-discharge recovery applications.

Connected Care Teams: Reliq strives to improve communication within care circles and teams in healthcare. Our mission is to reduce readmissions of patients through continuous in-home monitoring and real-time automated alerts to allow clinicians to intervene early when patients begin to destabilize, preventing significant complications that lead to costly and disruptive ER visits and hospital admissions.

Multiplatform Approach: We work on all of the popular devices and are easily integrated with existing electronic medical record systems if desired. Working on the web, Windows, Android and iOS, iUGO Care has the reach to be with care teams at all times.

Collaborative Care Plans: Empower patients and caregivers to follow and track their care.

Secure Messaging: Simplest, most secure way to send and receive messages.

Telehealth: Physician visits can be scheduled in advance or held on-demand.

Medication Management: Guide dosage and scheduling for complex medication therapies.

Family Sharing: Include patients' family and friends in the circle of care.

Notifications: Automatic reminders and alerts sent to the phone, desktop, and email.

Tailored Education: Deliver rich and engaging content that adapts for any screen.

Health Trends: Visualize months of data and quickly identify trends.

Reliq's high-tech, low-touch approach benefits patients, families, and the health care system. It also:

- Reduces: Home healthcare costs by more than 90%;
- Decreases: ER visits and readmissions
- Improves: Medication adherence;
- Enhances: Patients' quality of life;
- Increases: Patient and family satisfaction;
- Improves: Health outcomes.

Moving Forward

Reliq's technology will play an active role in:

Chronic Disease: Reliq's platform empowers patients to self-manage their chronic conditions at home. Patient health data is shared with family members and clinicians and stored in the cloud.

Medical Marijuana: Reliq's medical marijuana patient app allows users and their clinicians to track usage, dosage form, symptom relief and side effects. Over time Reliq will accumulate a comprehensive anonymized dataset that correlates the safety and efficacy of specific cannabis strains for treating various clinical conditions in diverse patient populations. This data will help clinicians feel more comfortable prescribing a medication that did not go through the typical clinical trials process, and will enable evidence-based treatment decisions.

Big Data: Data collected through patient apps can be aggregated and anonymized in the cloud. Anonymized population health data and analytics can be licensed to governments, research institutions and pharmaceutical companies.

Reliq Health Technologies is a Vancouver, BC based healthcare technology company that specializes in developing innovative, secure mobile software solutions for the \$20 billion community care market. Reliq's iUGO Care technology platform is a comprehensive hardware and cloud-based software solution that allows complex patients to receive high quality care in the home, improving health outcomes, enhancing quality of life for patients and families and reducing the cost of health care deliver.