

# Medication Cost Transparency Engine (MCTE)

Difficulty paying for health care, including prescription drugs and other medical bills, remains the top financial problem for American households. A number of studies in the last two years demonstrate that because of this burden, one-third to one-half of patients (even higher for those without health care coverage) do not take medication as prescribed. Up to one-quarter never fill prescriptions at all. Such lapses lead to unnecessary disease progression, disease complications, reduced functional abilities, a lower quality of life, and even possibly premature death. Down stream costs are estimated at \$100-\$250 billion dollars in health costs annually.

Our proposed Medication Cost Transparency Engine (MCTE) is a software application that will enable patients and providers to "see" how much medicines cost and locate them within their geographic area. It will have enhanced functionality to examine the impact of multiple factors to find the most affordable medications, perform medication reconciliation, check for drug-drug interactions, and maximize adherence.