

APPENDIX B

Cost-Benefit Analysis for Patients to Receive Treatment at a “Paperless Office”^{1,2}

	Year 0	Year 5	Total ³
Costs (-\$)			
Initial increase in physician fees	A	0	A
Utility of privacy concerns	B	B	5B
Time spent in doctor’s office due to new technology	C	D	E
Benefits (\$)			
Utility of increased physician awareness	F	G	H
Decreased prescription errors	I	J	K
Decreased time spent on forms	L	0	L
Increased confidence in physician	M	0	M
Net Benefits (\$)	(F+I+L+M)- (A+B+C)	(G+J)- (B+D)	(H+K+L+M)- (A+5B+E)

¹ “Paperless office” represents a primary care physician’s office with electronic medical records and e-prescribing

² Variables represent average expected utility of each cost or benefit; since utility for each item could have such significant variation, it is impossible to be sure whether the total net benefits would be positive or negative, although we anticipate positive net benefits.

³ Total sum of figures from Years 0-5