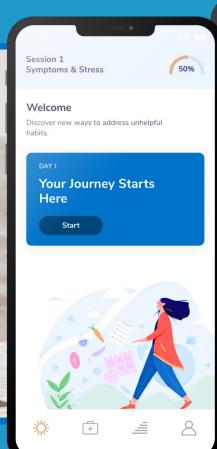
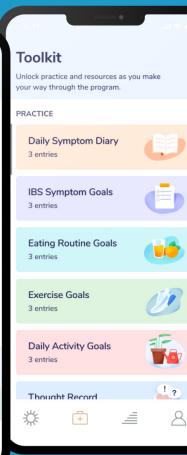
# **CASE STUDY: MAHANA THERAPEUTICS**

# Getting Doctors to Prescribe a FDA Cleared App for IBS Symptom Relief







# **CLIENT INFO**

**Customer:** Soren Mills - Chief Marketing Officer

**Company: Mahana Therapeutics** 

**Industry: Digital Therapeutics** 

**Author:** Jen Gordon

Publish Date: January 10, 2022

# **DELIVERABLES**

Persona Definition

✓ User Experience

Ø User Journey

Conversion Optimization

Visual Design

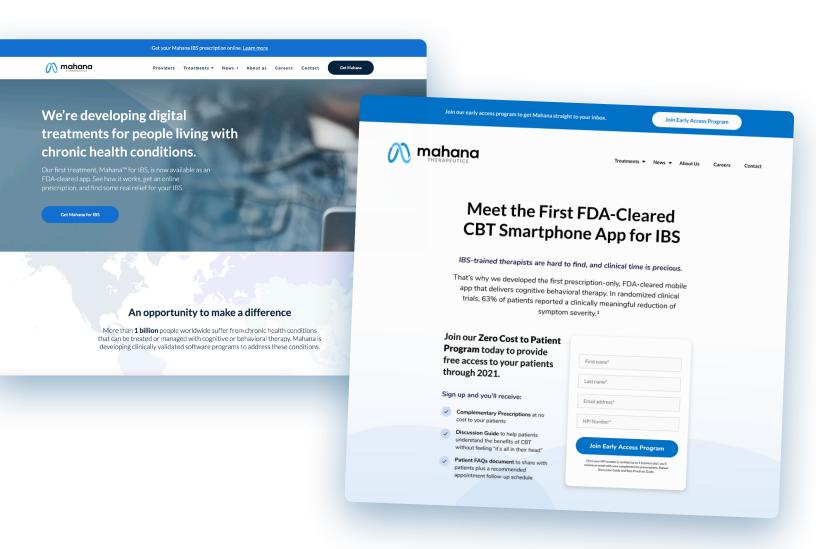


pen Gordon Studios is a costonier expenience user journey and conversion optimization consultancy led by designer and strategist Jen Gordon. Jen Gordon Studios, Inc. 1700 Northside Drive, Suite A7 PMB 1855 Atlanta, Georgia 30318 en@jengordon.com

# THE CHALLENGE

# How do we quickly educate busy physicians on the benefits of digital therapeutics for IBS symptoms?

After going through clinical trials that led to FDA clearing, Mahana knew the benefits of meditation and relaxation techniques reduced IBS symptomology. The real delimma lie in educating gastroenterologists and general practitioners on its value and moving beyond prescribing a pill.



# **Overview**

Mahana IBS is a Prescription Digital Therapeutic (PDT) mobile application designed to deliver Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) to patients with Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). Scientific research has revealed that there are complex communication loops between the central nervous system (the brain and spinal cord) and enteric nervous system (the gut or 'second brain'). CBT allows you to influence the communication in order to reduce the severity of IBS.

Only licensed healthcare providers can prescribe the Mahana IBS mobile application. Mahana IBS is available by prescription only for adults, aged 22 years of age and older, with IBS. Mahana IBS is intended to be used together with other IBS treatments, and is accessible via mobile phone or tablet.

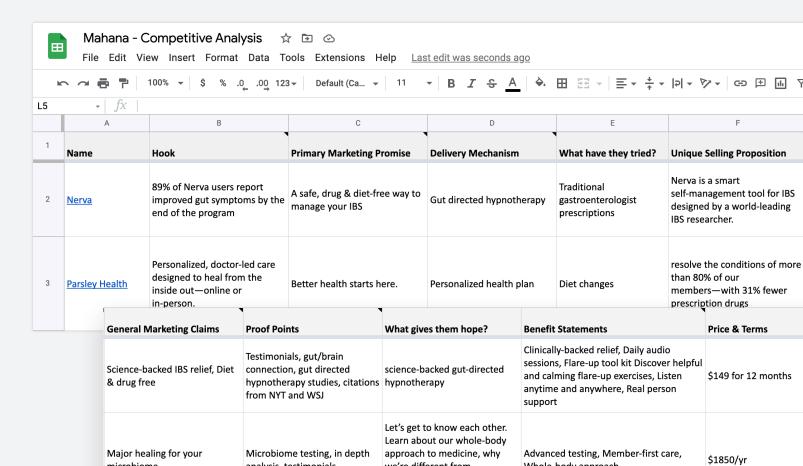
# **Discovery + Industry Research**

Discovery and industry research for this project included a competitive analysis and reviewing the inventory of existing content Mahana provided to fill in knowledge gaps:

- Clinical trial documentation
- Studies on gut-brain axis
- Studies on the impact of psychological & neurological factors on the gut-brain axis
- Studies on the role of microbiome
- Documentation of the types and efficacy of existing therapies

I was the team lead on this project and worked with the client team of 5, one researcher/copywriter and a project manager.

Mahana was not first to market with an IBS digital therapeutic, so there were many solutions to research and much existing consumer dialogue and feedback to collect and consider when learning about the competitive landscape.



# **Mahana Goals**

Mahana's overarching goal was to get providers to prescribe the Mahana app to patients suffering from IBS symptoms, supplementing other modalities of healing such as pharmaceuticals and diet changes.

# **Mahana Challenges**

To achieve their goal of signing up new providers (most of whom have never heard of Mahana), they needed to address the following questions:

#### **Persona Definition**

- How much do doctors already understand about digital therapeutics and are they already bought in on the efficacy?
- How do we get providers motivated to learn about a new modality of healing that is not a pharmaceutical?
- What kinds of doctors or practitioners are most likely to prescribe? GP's, Gastroenterologists, Physician Assistants?

- How do we educate providers on how to speak with patients in a supportive tone, avoiding a "it's all in your head" narrative?
- What are providers biggest headaches in treating patients with IBS? Can Mahana address any of these pain points?

# **Content & Conversion Strategies**

- What's a low-lift call to action providers are willing to engage?
- What are potential offers that create scarcity or urgency to participate in the program?
- What knowledge gaps need to be addressed and in what order/priority?

# Media Types & User Journey

- What are the media touchpoints along the user journey and how do they move providers into Mahana's sales funnel?
- How do we test messaging and make optimizations across all channels (print & digital advertising, LPs, email followups)

# **My Responsibilities**

GENERAL

**Customer Interviews** 

Discovery + Industry Research

Competitive Analysis

PERSONA DEVELOPMENT

**Provider Types Analysis** 

**Inventory Provider Motivations** 

Catalogue Audiencee Objections & Needs

**USER JOURNEY** 

Funnel Definition + Strategy

Media Touchpoints

**CONVERSION OPTIMIZATION** 

Content Strategy & Copywriting

Call to Action Strategy

Wireframes

VISUAL DESIGN

Landing Page Design

PDF Provider Handout



Treatments ▼ News ▼ About Us

# Meet the First FDA-Cleared **CBT Smartphone App for IBS**

IBS-trained therapists are hard to find, and clinical time is precious.

That's why we developed the first prescription-only, FDA-cleared mobile app that delivers cognitive behavioral therapy. In randomized clinical trials, 63% of patients reported a clinically meaningful reduction of symptom severity.1

Join our Zero Cost to Patient Program today to provide free access to your patients through 2021.

Sign up and you'll receive:



Discussion Guide to help patients understand the benefits of CBT without feeling "it's all in their head"

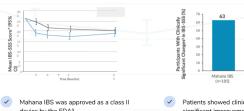
Patient FAQs document to share with patients plus a recommended appointment follow-up schedule

Last name* Email address*		First name*			
Email address*	NPI Number*	Last name*			
		Email address*			
NPI Number*	Join Early Access Program	NPI Number*			
		Join Earl	y Acces	ss Prog	ram

Join Early Access Program

# FDA-Cleared, Clinicall Validated and No Side Eff

The efficacy and safety of Mahana IBS was demonstrated ACTIB trial of 558 adult patients with refractory IBS. Mah helped nearly 2 in 3 people in clinical trials.2



device by the FDA<sup>3</sup>

CBT allows patients to influence braingut communication in order to reduce the severity of IBS



Patients showed clinical WSAS with Mahana IE those with TAU

63% of patients reporte meaningful reduction in IBS at the end of treat

# Mahana for IBS Advisor

We're working with leaders in gastroenterology to ensure patient and provider have the tools they need for IBS treatment.



# Meet the First FDA-Cleared CBT **Smartphone App** for IBS

Join our Zero Cost to Patient **Program** today to provide free access to your patients through 2021.

First name*	
Last name*	
Email address*	
NPI Number*	
Join Early Access Pro	

Jamed (up to 1 business day), you'll r lementary prescriptions, Patient Discussi and Best Practices Guide.

# **Persona Development**



In this document I collected interview data that helped inform the personas targeted for the initial campaign.

**Roller Coaster** 

**Hypotheses** Hero: What it is & to Expect No one is going to understand how to write it Providers want to know what to expect Providers don't understand approval pathway - meaning how Mahana got to be FDA approved Providers aren't familiar with CBT for IBS y & Effectiveness Providers aren't even sure what digital therapy is Safety and efficacy nts (roll in with roller Providers are skeptical that patients will use the app

> Proviers will prescribe CBT sooner if we tell them how to talk about it



Comments?		
How to write it - Jen		
Clinical trial - talk about WHY they decided to go for FDA approval. how big ws the trial, was it statistically significant, how big was the trial - is that an big/small number?		don't the F
they know it's effective, they know bare bones, but not in depth. GI's refer out, GP's know nothing	Demographic	GI ha pract socia male are li of ind unde empa IBS.
important to have this in a format where they can read more about CBT if they don't know		
FAQs at bottom?		
these are the things that sell. getting safe drugs has been a challenge		
they'll be skeptical of how much time and what THEY need to do		
we make it easy. empathizing with doctor, empathizing with patients. we know your patients are frustrated with treating IBS, many have already tried other therapies with limited or no success. mahana enables you to empower your patients with an app that empowers them to help. easy win for your motivated patients. this is the treatment for patients who are frustrated with trying other things. it helps them keep track of their progress. or for patients who are hesitant to try pharmaceutical intervention.		
no risk on your end. we make it easy for you to prescribe and explain to patients how to use it.		
app gives patient the power to heal themselves, all you need to do is schedule maintenance follow ups every 30 days.		
they're afriad they'll alienate their patient by saying this		
the ibs community is lucky they get to be on the leading ege. it's the "missing link"		

Every patient is different and requires different treatment

One of the last people who really care deeply about

patients.

# **Process**

- 1 Analysis of existing presentation materials for doctors
- Discovery and interviews with Mahana's internal team of cultants with industry related experience
- 3 Interviews with practicing gastroenterologists to hear first hand accounts and frustrations of treating IBS patients (especially those with ongoing, long term symptoms)

# **Deliverables & Recommendations**

### **DELIVERABLES**

Persona Prioritization

Provider Vocabulary

List of FDA-approved Language

**Definition of Provider Motivations** 

Call to Action Hypotheses

### RECOMMENDATIONS

For the initial provider marketing materials, it's recommended that we appeal to providers desire for more profitable tasks (surgeries, procedures). Seeing IBS patients is a low-revenue generating aspect of their practice, and they're motivated by any tool that will allow them to address these patients quickly.

They do care about these patients getting effective care, but their billing rates for this type of work often make it a low priority.

# **User Journey & Conversion Optimization**



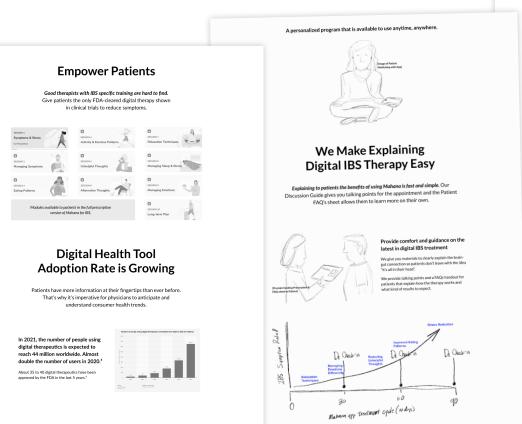


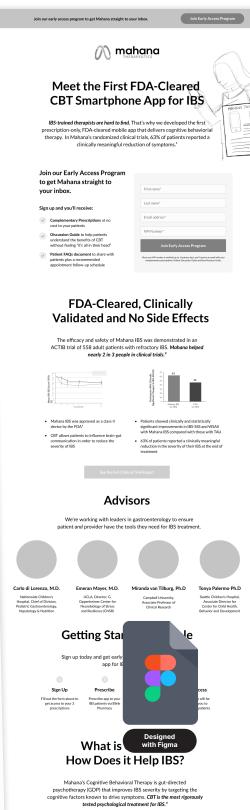




# **Challenges**

- ! How do we present an offer that providers feel is a low enough lift to take action?
- ! How do we drive enough curiousity get visitors to the next step in the funnel?
- ! What do visitors need to know before they'll be willing to take action?





# Finally, a Safe and Innovative Treatment That Works Across All IBS Classifications.

Mahana is a prescription-only, FDA-cleared mobile app that helps heal the brain-gut axis and deliver symptom relief to IBS sufferers through

This copy doc and wireframes defined messaging and informed the art direction and design for stock photography and illustrations.

[Image of QR code PDF sheet

and person using app]

Caption: Research tells us that IBS is a disorder of the gut-brain interaction. CBT

influences how your gut and brain talk to each other to reduce the severity of your symptoms.

In clinical trials, on average, reduction in IBS symptom severity was 2.75x that of patients

receiving medical care as usual.1

#### resc

# Discussion Guide

Sign up and you'll receive:

- 3 Prescription Codes pa to download the app and
- Discussion Guide to he understand the benefits of feeling "it's all in their hea
- Patient FAQs document patients plus a recomment appointment follow-up so

First name Last name Email address NPI # What is your role

#### [Get Started]

Once your NPI number is verified 24 hours), you'll receive an em prescription codes, Patient Discus Best Practices Guid

# **Process**

- Take results of interviews and develop offer based on things we learned about providers inner thoughts and motivations.
- **2** Develop heirarchy of messaging that hits the visitors biggest objection/hesitations.
- Based on motivations shared in interviews, develop benefit modules that address concerns about the excessive time investment needed to effectively treat IBS

# Stress Reduction Stress Reduction De Oracle in Reducing Unhelpful Thoughts Relaxation Techniques Managing Emotions Differently Thoughts A Do Solve in De Oracle in De Ora

Mahana's CBT model helps patients develop skills in 10 key areas over the cou to reduce severity of symptoms.

- Above the Fold on Mobile & Desktop -

# **Deliverables & Recommendations**

### **DELIVERABLES**

Funnel Definition + Strategy

# Wireframes

Content Strategy & Copywriting

Call to Action Strategy

### RECOMMENDATION

One of Mahana's biggest points of differentiation is the FDAcleared status. I recommended we lead with this messaging to grab attention and build both curiosity and trust early on the page. From there I developed recommendations around the development of a "Early Access Program" to drive a sense of urgency to opt in.

Beyond the hero I began addressing top concerns like "no side effects, how to get started, how it works, how to explain it to patients and how it empowers patients. The call to action is in a sticky bar at the top of the page, so the optin is always easy for visitors to access.

# FDA Cleared and Clinically Validated

# IBS is a prescription-only digital tic intended to provide CBT for years of age and older who have gnosed with IBS

ahana IBS was approved as a class device by the FDA 3T allows patients to influence ain-gut communication in order to educe the severity of IBS  Patients showed clinical statistically significant in in IBS-SSS and WSAS IBS compared with those

No AEs were deemed related to treatment

[See the Full Clinical Trial Report >]

— Mahana IBS (n=185)† — TAU (n=187)†

Google Docs

70 -

# Visual Design

























**Getting Started is Simple** Sign up today and get early access to the first FDA-cleared app for IBS treatment.

ensure patient and provider have the tools they need for IBS treatment.



# **Challenges**

- How do we drive engagement using visual design elements?
- ! How can we use illustrations, charts and visuals of clinical trial results to help visitors easily digest the value of Mahana app?
- How do we keep the primary call to action in the visitors line of sight at all times?

Join our early access program to get Mahana straight to your inbox

Join Early Access Program



Meet the First FDA-Cleared **CBT Smartphone App for IBS** 

IBS-trained therapists are hard to find, and clinical time is precious. That's why we developed the first prescription-only, FDA-cleared mobile app that delivers cognitive behavioral therapy. In randomized clinical trials, 63% of patients reported a clinically meaningful reduction of symptom severity.1

First name

# We Make Explaining **Digital IBS Therapy Easy**

to patients the benefits of using Mahana is fast and simple. Our Guide gives you talking points for the appointment and the Patient FAQ's sheet allows them to learn more on their own.



Provide comfort and



Email address NPI Number\* Join Early Access Program

#### without feeling "it's all in their head" Patient FAQs document to share with patients plus a recommended appointment follow-up schedule

Join our Zero Cost to Patient Program today to provide

free access to your patients

Complementary Prescriptions at no

Discussion Guide to help patients understand the benefits of CBT

through 2021.

Sign up and you'll receive:

cost to your patients

**Empower Patients** oma & Diress

Activity & Exercise Patterns

Relaxation Techniques

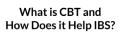












Mahana's Cognitive Behavioral Therapy is gut-directed sychotherapy (GDP) that improves IBS severity by targeting the cognitive factors known to drive symptoms. CBT is the most rigorously tested psychological treatment for IBS.<sup>4</sup>



CBT is a no-risk solution that works for all types of IBS (D, C & M).

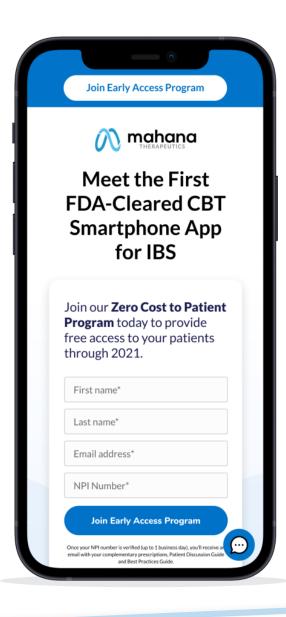
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) is a proven method for reducing the impact of stress hormon that impair intestinal barrier function.

The gut-brain axis is a contributing









# **Process**

- Assemble all visual design elements already defined in the Mahana style guide (colors, fonts, logo, diagrams, stock photography)
- **2** Create library of re-usable assets in Figma
- 3 Since a photo shoot was not possible prior to page publishing, it was necessary to Photoshop the app into stock photography scenes of everday use.
- 4 Create mobile-first design in Figma, collect client feedback, iterate and prep file for development.

# **Deliverables & Recommendations**

**DELIVERABLES** 

Landing Page Design

PDF Provider Handout

### RECOMMENDATIONS

To optimize funnel performance, I'm recommending a 8 week test to distribute flyers to providers, and then to patients, measuring optin rate by app downloads. In tandem, it's recomended the landing page be split test and optimized for provider optins, making adjustments to copy and offers until a working variant has been identified.

It's also recomended that follow up email campaigns be monitored and optimized based on CTR and engagement.



# Take control of your IBS Symptoms with a Free 90-Day Treatment

Mahana™ for IBS - the Only FDA-cleared



Adobe Illustrator IBS severity in as little as 4 weeks.

Mahana IBS users save up to 3.5x more money than with traditional CBT treatments.



## **How Does it Work?**

Mahana IBS targets your gut-brain interaction using Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), which has been clinically proven to reduce IBS symptoms. CBT is a recommended treatment for all types of IBS by the American College of Gastroenterology and the American Gastroenterology Association.<sup>1</sup>

## How to Download:

Scan QR code and download app:



# **Outcomes**

Provider sa	ales funnel defined
Offer strate	egy - several identified for testing
Laning pag	ge testing recommendations
Fully desig	ned and testable landing page
Conversion	n optimization strategies
User journe	ey hypotheses

Mahana left this engagement with testable marketing assets designed to engage and move new providers into and through their sales funnel. They also have a clear strategy for testing and optimizing as they learn more about this audience over time!

# **Questions?**

Looking to solve a similar problem? Happy to jump on a call to discuss in more detail how I can assist with your User Journey, Conversion Optimization and Customer Experiences!

Jen Gordon (404) 644-1014 c jen@jengordon.com

# **CLIENT INFO**

**Customer:** Soren Mills - Chief Marketing Officer

Company: Mahana Therapeutics

**Industry:** Digital Therapeutics

Author: Jen Gordon

Publish Date: January 10, 2022

# **DELIVERABLES**

Persona Definition

✓ User Experience

Ø User Journey

Conversion Optimization

Visual Design



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