The Problem:
- Children are scared at hospitals. Existing non-pharmacological methods to cope with anxiety are not completely effective during the entire experience
- Pharmacological methods have proven to have unwanted effects in the recovery of the patient
- Research has shown that anxiety has detrimental effects on a child's health before, during, and after a procedure
- Education and preparedness has also been indicated to be extremely helpful in controlling this anxiety

Concept:
- The system is about providing the patient with a series of books and a customized electronic app to educate and distract in real time at the hospital

The Toy and the Books:
- Two books and one toy that can be taken home the day of the pre-operating assessment
- The first book is about Ryan the Raccoon and one adventure. The purpose of this first book is to engage the kid with the character and to create a sense of identification with it.
- The second book is about Ryan the Raccoon getting sick and needing to go to the hospital. In this book, Ryan is taken to an examination and later to a tour around the hospital. This allows the child to be able to recognize the spaces and the elements inside the same hospital he/she is going to go a few days later.

Stakeholders:
- Child Life specialists at the hospital will give the child two books about Ryan the Raccoon and one Ryan Doll
- The parents should get involved in reading the stories and engaging the child
- The child will develop a relationship with the character
- At the registration the child will receive a tablet pc with the application
- The child already knows the character and will be able to share the experience with the toy
- The app is about Ryan having the same surgery and explaining everything to the child one step ahead

Testing / Implementation:
- In order to prove success of this project, a pilot is going to be implemented at McMaster Hospital to observe if the children successfully engage with the system created
- The second phase of the project is going to be the clinical study. In this study anxiety is going to be measured in two control groups to determine the impact of Storytelling Medicine in reducing anxiety

The Application:
- Ryan the Raccoon is the main character and he is having an operation as well. Ryan is going to share that experience with the child by being one step ahead, this allows the child to see where they will be and what will be happening next.
- All the spaces inside the hospital were recreated in digital so the child can see Ryan navigating the same hospital

Real Photos
Illustrations