

Health Resources Digest
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Handheld Computers in Health Care

Web-sites

Doctors Gadgets

Doctors' Gadgets provides technology news and discussion for doctors, medical students, and healthcare professionals. The site covers developments in medical informatics, electronic medical records and handheld computing in medicine. By joining the free Health Informatics forum you will have access to post topics, communicate privately with other members, respond to polls, upload your own photos and access many other special features. DoctorsGadgets.com hosts the online tutorials to go with The Doctor's PDA and Smartphone Handbook, by Dr Mo Al-Ubaydli and published by the Royal Society of Medicine Press.

URL: <http://www.doctorsgadgets.com>

MedicalPocketPC

A comprehensive news, hardware, and software web-site. Provides links to related web-sites with free software downloads, discussion forums, news and conferences.

URL: <http://www.medicalpocketpc.com/>

Mdtool.com

This web-site provides links to online medical resources, organized by specialty or subject. Also features PDA resources, a buying guide and links to free downloadable medical software for PDAs.

URL: <http://www.mdtool.com/index.html>

Handheld Computer Applications

AIDSinfo – PDA Tools

Access a number of AIDS-related PDA applications, including the Treatment Guidelines, and a HIV/AIDS glossary.

URL: <http://www.aidsinfo.nih.gov/PDATools/Default.aspx?MenuItem=AIDSInfoTools>

Archimedes - Free Medical Calculator

This medical calculator provides you with 70 preprogrammed formulas that include specialties such as Cardiology, Pharmacology, Hematology, FEN, Pediatrics, Pulmonary and Renal.

URL: <http://www.skyscape.com/EStore/ProductDetail.aspx?ProductID=227>

C-Tools

C-Tools from the American Cancer Society provides a suite of tools to help doctors and their staff prevent, diagnose and treat cancer. C-Tools 2.5 is available in Palm OS and Microsoft Pocket PC versions and easy to download. It runs on the following mobile devices: Palm OS including Treo smartphones, Windows CE .NET 4.x, Windows CE .NET 5.0, Pocket PC, Windows Mobile 5.0 Smartphone Edition, and All Microsoft Handheld OS Versions (with download)

URL: <http://www.acspdasupport.com/news.php>

Epocrates Rx Download (free version)

Contains over 3,300 brand and generic drugs, including dosing, interactions, black box warnings, safety and monitoring, adverse reactions, pricing, and more. Now also available for BlackBerry.

URL: <http://www.epocrates.com/products/rx/>

Handheld computer resources in the NCBI Bookshelf

Some of the books available in the Bookshelf can be downloaded to a handheld device. For that, you will need to download a free version of the MobiPocket Reader. The software works on Palm Powered devices, Pocket PCs, Symbian phones and PCs. You can sign up to be notified by e-mail when other titles are added to the collection. Currently available are: Blood Groups and Red Cell Antigens; Clinical Methods: The History, Physical and Laboratory Examinations; Genes and Disease ; Health Services/Technology Assessment Text (HSTAT) ; Inflammatory Atherosclerosis: Characteristics of the Injurious Agent; Medical Microbiology

URL: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query/Books.live/Help/mobile.html>

Links to Clinical Practice Guidelines for Handheld Computers

All National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC) Guideline Summaries are available in a text format downloadable to the Palm-based Personal Digital Assistant (PDA). In addition, information concerning the availability of full-text guidelines and/or companion documents available in downloadable versions for the handheld computer through the guideline developer is also listed on this page.

URL: <http://www.guidelines.gov/resources/pda.aspx>

Medical Eponyms for the Palm OS

A list of 1,600 common and obscure medical eponyms with descriptions.

URL: <http://eponyms.net/eponyms.htm>

PubMed for Handhelds

Search PubMed with screens designed for ease of use on a PDA. Free Web application designed to help healthcare professionals search PubMed, read journal abstracts, and access *ClinicalTrials.gov* using their wireless, handheld computers. The application is platform independent, working with Palm OS[®], PocketPC[®], and Linux[®] personal digital assistants (PDAs). It is compatible with most commonly used Web browsers, including, but not limited to AvantGo[®], Blazer[®], Eudora Web[®], WebPro[®], Internet Explorer[®] and Netscape[®]. It also provides options to search MEDLINE/PubMed via PICO. PICO, which stands for Patient/Problem, Intervention, Compared to, and Outcome, is a method used for structuring clinical questions. This format can also be used for structuring literature searches and may be helpful to those interested in evidence-based medicine.

URL: <http://pubmedhh.nlm.nih.gov/nlm/>

pdaMD.com

pdaMD.com, a subsidiary of PDA Verticals Corporation, was founded in 1999 to serve the growing demand for Mobile Medical information. Resource center includes articles, news, reviews and tutorials

URL: <http://www.pdamd.com/home?session-key=28ea72f2-9584-42a6-9223-ed11c9c3a8c4>

WISER (Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders)

WISER is a system designed to assist first responders in hazardous material incidents. It provides a wide range of information on hazardous substances, including substance identification support, physical characteristics, human health information, and containment and suppression advice. WISER is available as a standalone application on Microsoft Windows PCs, Windows Mobile devices, and Palm OS PDAs. When an Internet connection is available, you can access the same WISER functionality with your web browser. Support for PDA-based browsers, including BlackBerry, is included.

URL: <http://wiser.nlm.nih.gov/about.html>

Collections of Links

Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) Resources

This is a starting point for health care professionals for finding PDA resources, hardware, and software applications. From the John A Prior Health Sciences Library (The Ohio State University)

URL: <http://library.med.ohio-state.edu/3336.cfm>

Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) Suggested Sites

Compiled by the Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library (University of Utah)

URL: <http://library.med.utah.edu/or/pda/sites.php>

Articles

Who's using PDAs? Estimates of PDA use by health care providers: a systematic review of surveys. *J Med Internet Res.* 2006 May 12;8(2):e7.

Personal digital assistants (PDAs) find many uses in health care. Knowing rates of collective PDA use among health care providers is an important guiding step to further understanding those health care contexts that are most suited to PDA use and whether PDAs provide improved health outcomes. The objectives of this study were to estimate current and future PDA use among health care providers and to discuss possible implications of that use on choice of technology in clinical practice and research

URL: <http://www.jmir.org/2006/2/e7/>

Evidence for handheld electronic medical records in improving care: a systematic review. *BMC Med Inform Decis Mak.* 2006 Jun 20;6:26.

Handheld electronic medical records may improve documentation, but as yet, the number of studies is small and the data is restricted to one group of patients and a small group of practitioners. Further study is required to determine the benefits with handheld electronic medical records especially in assessing clinical outcomes.

URL : <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6947/6/26>

Use of handheld computers in medical education. A systematic review. *J Gen Intern Med.* 2006 May;21(5):531-7.

„Over the past decade, handheld computers (or personal digital assistants [PDAs]) have become a popular tool among medical trainees and physicians. Few comprehensive reviews of PDA use in medicine have been published. Approximately 60% to 70% of medical students and residents use PDAs for educational purposes or patient care. Satisfaction was generally high and correlated with the level of handheld computer experience. Most of the studies included described PDA use for patient tracking and documentation. By contrast, trainees rated medical textbooks, medication references, and medical calculators as the most useful applications. Only 1 randomized trial with educational outcomes was found, demonstrating improved learning and application of evidence-based medicine with use of PDA-based decision support software. No articles reported the impact of PDA use on patient outcomes.“

URL:

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?tool=pubmed&pubmedid=16704405>

Handheld computers and the 21st century surgical team: a pilot study. *BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making* 2005, 5:28

The results of this pilot study show the possible effects of replacing the current hospital pager with a newer, more technologically advanced device, and suggest that a combined personal digital assistant and mobile phone device may improve communication between doctors. In the light of these encouraging preliminary findings, we propose a large-scale clinical trial of the use of these devices in facilitating inter-professional communication in a hospital setting.

URL: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6947/5/28>

Evidence-based medicine among internal medicine residents in a community hospital program using smart phones. *BMC Med Inform Decis Mak.* 2007 Feb 21;7:5.

„This study implemented and evaluated a point-of-care, wireless Internet access using smart phones for information retrieval during daily clinical rounds and academic activities of internal medicine residents in a community hospital. We did the project to assess the feasibility of using smart phones as an alternative to reach online medical resources because we were unable to find previous studies of this type. In addition, we wanted to learn what Web-based information resources internal medicine residents were using and whether providing bedside, real-time access to medical information would be perceived useful for patient care and academic activities.“

URL: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6947/7/5>

Health Resources Digest Forthcoming Topics

[Provisional]

Medical Calculators; Statistical Methods in Clinical Research

If you have a suggestion for a Digest topic, or would like to contribute information about Internet resources, then please contact ibra@zadar.net

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<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/misc/publication3/>