

Evidence-Based Practice at the Bedside: The Librarian's Role in Promoting EBP Mobile Apps

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Background

With the development of powerful mobile devices, users can carry practically a full library of evidence-based practice (EBP) tools in their pockets. Studies associate the use of mobile devices with improved patient care and safety. Librarians have new opportunities to engage with users by providing instruction on the use of mobile devices to support EBP.

The Librarian's Role

Librarians can draw on their outreach and instruction experience to help users with EBP apps. Possible activities include:

- increasing awareness of mobile devices as tools for EBP, especially through blogs, social media and other Web 2.0 services;
- promoting high-quality apps;
- educating users through formal and informal instruction

Users may benefit from instruction in EBP search techniques and their application to apps.

Selecting & Promoting High Quality Apps

Librarians should be prepared to offer advice on reliable apps, as well as criteria for users to judge new apps. Users should be made aware of free apps that are supported by commercial messages, such as Epocrates, as these promotional messages are not always clearly identifiable as ads.

Best Practices for Instruction

- Address multiple platforms (iOS, Android, Blackberry etc.) or offer suggestions for apps with cross-platform compatibility
- Include screenshots or use an emulator to demo apps on a computer screen
- Consider online teaching modalities such as video tutorials or webcasts to reach busy clinicians
- Show users how to configure their device to access your institutional subscriptions

for links and bibliography, see
<http://lisafederer.net/mlgsca>

