Quality Assessment of Medical Apps that Target Medication-Related Problems

John Shiguang Loy, BSc(Pharm)(Hons); Eskinder Eshetu Ali, BPharm, MSc; and Kevin Yi-Lwern Yap, BSc(Pharm)(Hons), MEng, SDMC, PhD, SRPharmS

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: The advent of smartphones has enabled a plethora of medical apps for disease management. As of 2012, there are 40,000 health care-related mobile apps available in the market. Since most of these medical apps do not go through any stringent quality assessment, there is a risk of consumers being misinformed or misled by unreliable information. In this regard, apps that target medication-related problems (MRPs) are not an exception. There is little information on what constitutes quality in apps that target MRPs and how good the existing apps are.

OBJECTIVE: To develop a quality assessment tool for evaluating apps that target MRPs and assess the quality of such apps available in the major mobile app stores (iTunes and Google Play).

METHODS: The top 100 free and paid apps in the medical categories of iTunes and Google Play stores (total of 400 apps) were screened for inclusion in the final analysis. English language apps that targeted MRPs were downloaded on test devices to evaluate their quality. Apps intended for clinicians, patients, or both were eligible for evaluation. The quality assessment tool consisted of 4 sections (appropriateness, reliability, usability, privacy), which determined the overall quality of the apps. Apps that fulfilled the inclusion criteria were classified based on the presence of any 1 or more of the 5 features considered important for apps targeting MRPs (monitoring, interaction checker, dose calculator, medication information, medication record). Descriptive statistics and Mann-Whitney tests were used for analysis.

RESULTS: Final analysis was based on 59 apps that fulfilled the study inclusion criteria. Apps with interaction checker (66.9%) and monitoring features (54.8%) had the highest and lowest overall qualities. Paid apps generally scored higher for usability than free apps (P=0.006) but lower for privacy (P=0.003). Half of the interaction checker apps were unable to detect interactions with herbal medications. Blood pressure and heart rate monitoring apps had the highest overall quality scores (67.7%), while apps that monitored visual, hearing, and temperature changes scored the lowest (35.5%).

CONCLUSIONS: A quality assessment tool for evaluating medical apps targeting MRPs has been developed. Clinicians can use this tool to guide their assessments of medical apps that are appropriate for use in the health care setting. Although potentially useful apps were identified, many apps were found to have deficiencies in quality, among which was poor reliability scores for most of the apps. Continued assessments of the quality of apps targeting MRPs are recommended to ensure their usefulness for clinicians and patients.

J Manag Care Spec Pharm. 2016;22(10):1124-40

Copyright© 2016, Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy. All rights reserved.

What is already known about this subject

- Medication-related problems (MRPs) are events or circumstances involving medication therapy that can potentially or actually interfere with desired health outcomes, which, in turn, can lead to morbidity and mortality, as well as increased health care costs.
- As of 2012, there are approximately 40,000 health care apps available, 30% of which specifically target clinicians with little focus on app quality or ability to address MRPs.

What this study adds

- A quality assessment tool has been developed to help clinicians and medical app reviewers assess the quality of medical apps that target MRPs.
- This study showed that apps with medication interaction checkers and monitoring features had the highest and lowest overall qualities, respectively; reliability of apps was generally poor; and paid apps had better usability but poorer privacy scores.
- A recommended list of ranked apps is provided as a guide for clinicians to select or recommend an appropriate app in their clinical practices.

S martphones and rapid development of mobile health care apps, together with advanced features such as Bluetooth, accelerometers, and 3G/4G networks, are currently supporting patient care activities in many health systems.¹⁻³ The use of such mobile technologies in health care provision has paved the way for a new domain known as mobile health, or mHealth.^{1.2} Eighty-one percent of U.S. physicians own a smartphone and are incorporating their use in practice.⁴⁻⁶ Moreover, 56% of the U.S. adult population was reported to own smartphone in 2013.⁷ Mobile subscriptions within the Asia-Pacific region account for more than half of the global subscription rate with 3.5 billion subscriptions.⁸ In Singapore, 75% of smartphone users utilize mobile apps, ranking Singapore fifth among 43 countries in terms of app usage.^{9,10}

As of 2012, there are approximately 40,000 health care apps available.⁴ Thirty percent of these apps specifically target clinicians and the remaining 70% target the general consumer.^{4,11} Up to 63.5% of clinicians use apps in clinical practice and 1 in 5 people with smartphones download an app with a health-related purpose.^{12,13} Little is known about the quality of mobile apps used by clinicians and patients in health care settings. Recently, medical app reviews have discussed the use of apps for



medication information.^{14,15} However, there is little focus on how these apps can address medication-related problems (MRPs).

MRPs are events or circumstances involving medication therapy that can potentially or actually interfere with desired health outcomes.^{16,17} The Pharmaceutical Care Network Europe (PCNE) classifies MRPs as problems with treatment effectiveness, adverse drug events, increased treatment costs, and others. MRPs are associated with increased morbidity and mortality, as well as increased health care costs.¹⁸⁻²⁰ For example, it is estimated that MRPs cost the U.S. health system over USD\$170 billion annually, with hospital admissions accounting for 69% of total costs.²¹ MRPs can be caused by prescribing or medication-use errors and can be prevented with proper measures in place.¹⁷

While there are numerous health-related apps in the different app stores, it is hard to find scientific studies evaluating apps that target MRPs. In the context of patient care, such apps can serve as potentially useful tools for MRP prevention interventions. As such, the objective of this study was to develop a quality assessment tool to evaluate health care apps that target MRPs and provide a non-exhaustive recommended list of apps for clinicians in practice settings. The study focused on the 2 main operating systems, Android and Apple, since they account for over 90% of the market share.²²

Methods

Creation of Quality Assessment Tool

Articles from PubMed and the iMedicalApps website were analyzed to generate the evaluation criteria for the quality assessment tool.²³ The PubMed search included a list of medication-related and mobile technology-related MeSH terms





^aNumbers do not total up to 59 as there are apps with more than 1 feature and apps that appear across both platforms. MRP=medication-related problem.

TABLE 1 Median	General Quality S	cores of Apple and	d Android	Apps: Free and Pa	aid Versions	
		Apple			Android	
	Median Sco	ore (%, IQR)		Median Sco	re (%, IQR)	
Quality Scores (Total Points)	Free (n = 16)	Paid (n = 14)	P Value	Free (n = 13)	Paid (n = 16)	P Value
Reliability (12 points)	3/12 (25.0, 37.5)	3/12 (25.0, 25.0)	0.782	3/12 (25.0, 29.2)	3/12 (25.0, 16.7)	0.516
Usability (22 points)	15/22 (70.5, 12.6)	17.5/22 (79.6, 15.9)	0.167	14/22 (63.6, 18.2)	18/22 (81.9, 21.6)	0.012 ^b
Privacy (4 points)	2/4 (50.0, 75.0)	0.5/4 (12.5, 50.0)	0.072	2/4 (50.0, 0.0)	1/4 (25.0, 50.0)	0.012 ^b
General quality ^a (38 points)	20/38 (52.6, 16.5)	21/38 (55.3, 17.1)	0.786	21/38 (55.3, 18.5)	23/38 (60.5, 14.5)	0.243
^a General auality scores are the sum	of the reliability usability	and privacy scores.				

^bStatistical significance of P<0.05 for usability and privacy scores between Android free and paid apps. *IQR* = interquartile range.

and keywords. Articles were limited to the past 5 years, from July 2008 to October 2013, and filtered based on title and abstract. Articles were included if they were available in English and the mobile apps could be used to target MRPs based on the PCNE classification.¹⁷ Exclusion criteria were non-English articles, abstracts or full-texts that were unavailable, no discussion on mobile app usage, mobile technologies that utilized only short message services (SMSs) or voice calls, articles that focused only on the design and development of apps, and studies on older devices such as personal digital assistants. Additionally, app review articles published on iMedicalApps between January 2012 and November 2013 were analyzed for features of health care apps that could potentially target MRPs. A total of 70 articles were used to develop the quality assessment tool (Figure 1).

The full texts of the 70 articles were reviewed to extract potentially relevant quality assessment criteria for apps targeting MRPs. The criteria extracted from the articles were classified into 2 major categories of quality as "appropriateness of the app to serve its intended function" and "general quality." The first category was based on the features of the apps that were discussed in the reviewed articles. The features of the apps were broadly categorized into monitoring, medication interaction checker, dose calculator, medication information, and medication records. Each app in the reviewed articles had 1 or more of these features. Criteria for evaluation of the quality of such features were listed under each section. Depending on the number of criteria for each feature, the scores for the quality of each feature varied. For example, the maximum score for the monitoring feature was 24, while for the medication record feature, it was 8. The general quality category included sections on the reliability, usability, and privacy of apps. The corresponding criteria were listed under each of these sections (Appendix A, available in online article). The quality assessment tool was developed in such a way that all apps were rated for their general quality out of a total of 38 points, whereas each app was assessed for the presence of features listed under the appropriateness category and corresponding criteria were used to evaluate the app (the maximum possible score in this section varied with the evaluated feature).

Selection of Apps and Process of Quality Assessment

The top paid and free medical app categories on iTunes and Google Play were searched to identify the first 100 apps in each category as ranked by the app stores themselves. The top 100 apps in each category were screened based on their title and description. Apps were included for assessment if they were available in English and contained 1 or more of the 5 features targeting MRPs (Figure 2). All eligible apps were downloaded to test devices for final evaluation. Android apps were evaluated on a Samsung Galaxy S3 smartphone (version 4.1.2) and Apple apps were evaluated on an iPhone 4s (version 7.0.3).

Upon download to the test devices, an app was first classified based on the presence of features for the purposes of monitoring treatment effectiveness, checking medication interactions, calculating doses, providing medication information, and keeping medication records. Once the app was identified to have any 1 or more of these features, the corresponding assessment criteria under the section of "appropriateness of feature to serve its intended function" were employed to evaluate its quality. Accordingly, the maximum possible score for an app having any of the features could vary from 46 for the medication record feature to 62 for the monitoring feature. The maximum possible scores for apps with a dose calculator, medication interaction checker, and medication information features were 49, 56, and 60, respectively. App comparisons were made at the level of each feature. To facilitate comparison among apps with different features, percentages of the raw scores of the apps on the assessment tool were calculated. The overall quality of the apps was then calculated as a percentage based on the composite scores for each section (appropriateness, reliability, usability, and privacy).

Statistical Analysis

Apps were grouped according to which MRPs they could target based on their descriptions in the app stores. Descriptive statistics for each feature were computed based on the apps' feature scores on the quality assessment tool and reported as medians and interquartile ranges (IQRs). A Mann-Whitney U test was used to evaluate the differences in scores between free and paid apps and Apple and Android apps. All tests were 2-tailed and

Quality Assessment of Medical Apps that Target Medication-Related Problems



Median Overall Quality and Appropriateness Scores of Apple and Android Apps: Free and Paid Versions

	Overa	all Quality Score		Appro	priateness Score	
	Median Score	e (%, IQR) [n]		Median Scor	e (%, IQR) [n]	
Feature	Free	Paid	P Value	Free	Paid	P Value
Apple platform				1		
Monitoring	31/62 (50.0, 19.4) [n=9]	34/62 (54.8, 21.0) [n=9]	0.605	12/24 (50.0, 33.3) [n=9]	15/24 (62.5, 33.3) [n=9]	0.423
Medication interaction checker	39/56 (70.5, NA) [n=2]	NA (NA, NA) [n=0]	NA	12/18 (66.7, NA) [n=2]	NA (NA, NA) [n=0]	NA
Dose calculator	29/49 (59.2, 16.3) [n=4]	28/49 (56.1, NA) [n=2]	0.800	5/11 (40.9, 47.7) [n=4]	6/11 (50.0, NA) [n=2]	0.812
Medication information	38/60 (63.3, 22.7) [n=5]	35/60 (58.3, NA) [n=2]	0.857	14/22 (63.6, 22.7) [n=5]	12/22 (54.6, NA) [n=2]	0.693
Medication record	20/46 (42.4, NA) [n=2]	NA (NA, NA) [n=1]	0.667	4/8 (43.8, NA) [n=2]	NA (NA, NA) [n=1]	0.221
Android platform						
Monitoring	33/62 (53.2, 25.0) [n=5]	40/62 (65.3, 6.5) [n=4]	0.032a	13/24 (54.2, 37.5) [n=5]	15/24 (62.5, 20.8) [n=4]	0.217
Medication interaction checker	36/56 (64.3, 17.4) [n=4]	NA (NA, NA) [n=0]	NA	14/18 (77.8, 31.9) [n=4]	NA (NA, NA) [n=0]	NA
Dose calculator	29/49 (59.2, NA) [n=3]	25/49 (51.0, 12.2) [n=5]	0.071	6/11 (54.6, NA) [n=3]	4/11 (36.4, 40.9) [n=5]	0.365
Medication information	36/60 (60.0, 31.7) [n=7]	31/60 (51.7, NA) [n=3]	0.667	15/22 (68.2, 59.1) [n=7]	10/22 (45.5, NA) [n=3]	0.563
Medication record	NA (NA, NA) [n=1]	29/46 (64.1, 8.7) [n=4]	0.400	NA (NA, NA) [n=1]	5/8 (56.3, 21.9) [n=4]	0.709
^a Statistical significance of P<0.05	aStatistical significance of P<0.05 in overall quality score between Android free and paid apps.					

IQR=interquartile range; NA=not applicable.

P-values below 0.05 were considered statistically significant. Statistical analyses were conducted using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 21 (IBM Corp, Armonk, NY).

Results

A total of 400 apps were screened for inclusion in the final evaluation based on review of their app store description pages. Only 59 (14.8%) apps fulfilled the inclusion criteria, of which 5 were available on both platforms. There were 27 apps with monitoring features, 17 apps with medication information features, 14 dose calculators, 8 apps with medication record features, and 6 medication interaction checkers. Six apps contained multiple features and were evaluated according to their respective feature sections (Figure 2).

Apps with medication interaction checkers had the highest overall quality (66.9%; IQR = 18.3%), while apps with monitoring features had the lowest overall quality (54.8%; IQR = 19.4%). Paid Apple apps had higher overall quality compared to free apps (58.1% vs. 55.8%; P=0.962). Similarly, paid Android apps also had higher overall quality (59.4% vs. 59.1%; P=0.937). Free and paid apps across both platforms had equally poor reliability (25% each; IQR=29.2% vs. 18.8%; P=0.480). Paid apps generally scored higher for usability (79.6% vs. 68.2%; P=0.006) but lower for privacy (25.0% vs. 50.0%; P=0.003) compared to free apps (Table 1).

Assessment of Feature Scores

Monitoring. Paid apps with monitoring features had higher overall quality scores than free apps across both platforms, but the score difference for Android apps was statistically significant (65.3% vs. 53.2%, respectively; P=0.032; Table 2). The

Cancer.Net Mobile app ranked highest (79.0%), followed by Blood Pressure Diary Pro, HeartWise Blood Pressure Tracker, and iBP Blood Pressure (67.7% each; Table 3). Other than the Cancer.Net Mobile app, the top-scoring apps based on their overall quality scores were those that monitored blood pressure and heart rate (66.1%-67.7%), while apps that monitored visual, hearing, and temperature changes scored the lowest (30.6%-38.7%). The appropriateness and usability scores for the top 4 apps were similar, but Cancer.Net Mobile performed better for reliability and privacy (Appendix B, available in online article). A majority of the apps did not allow users to set target goals for physiological parameters such as blood glucose, body temperature, and heart rate (n=20) nor provide a management plan when an abnormal measurement was recorded (n=23), thus affecting their appropriateness scores. Only 3 apps (Blood Pressure Diary, Blood Pressure Diary Pro, and iBP Blood Pressure) allowed syncing of data from the blood pressure monitoring device to the app via Bluetooth.

Medication Interaction Checker. All the evaluated apps in this category were free apps (Table 2). The top app based on overall quality was Medscape (76.8%), while the Drugs.com Medication Guide scored the lowest (57.1%). The Apple version of Epocrates had a higher score than its Android counterpart due to better usability (score: 17/22 vs. 14/22, respectively; Appendix B). A majority of the apps (n=4) were unable to provide users with a list of all possible interactions associated with a single medication, and half of the apps (n=3) were also unable to detect interactions with herbal medications.

Dose Calculator. In general, free apps scored higher for overall quality compared to paid apps (Table 2). The highest-scoring apps based on overall quality were Medscape (75.5%), MedCalc (67.3%), and Epocrates (Apple version: 61.2%; Table 3).

TABLE	TABLE 3 Top 3 Apps Within Each Feature Category Based on Overall Quality Scores				
Feature	App Name	Rank	Overall Quality Score (%)	Platform (Version)	
Monitoring	Cancer.Net Mobile	1	79.0	Apple (free)	
	Blood Pressure Diary Pro			Android (paid)	
	HeartWise Blood Pressure Tracker	2	67.7	Apple (paid)	
	iBP Blood Pressure			Apple (paid)	
	iBP Blood Pressure			Android (paid)	
	Blood Pressure Monitor–Family Lite	3	66.1	Apple (free)	
Medication) ()	1	76.0	Android (free)	
interaction	Medscape		70.0	Apple (free)	
checker	Skyscape Medical Resources (RxDrugs)	2	69.6	Android (free)	
	Epocrates	3	64.3	Apple (free)	
Dose	Madacapa	1	75.5	Android (free)	
calculator	Meuscape	1	13.5	Apple (free)	
	MedCalc	2	67.3	Apple (paid)	
	Epocrates	3	61.2	Apple (free)	
Medication	Medscape			Apple (free)	
information	Medscape	1	71.7	Android (free)	
	Epocrates			Apple (free)	
	Epocrates	2	66.7	Android (free)	
	Lippincott Nursing Drug Handbooks	3	63.3	Apple (free)	
	MIMS			Apple (free)	
Medication record	Med Helper Pro Pill Reminder	1	67.4	Android (paid)	
	Pillboxie	1		Apple (paid)	
	My Medical Info	2	65.2	Android (paid)	
	My Medical	3	63.0	Android (paid)	

Epocrates performed better for overall quality on Apple compared to Android platforms (61.2% vs. 57.1%) due to better usability (score: 17/22 vs. 14/22, respectively). Similarly, the Android version of Calculate by QxMD also fared better than its Apple counterpart due to slightly better usability (score: 16/22 vs. 15/22, respectively; Appendix B). Most apps in this category were unable to calculate dose requirements for antibiotics (n = 10) and did not provide any administration instructions after calculation of doses (n = 13).

Medication Information. Free apps in this category had higher overall quality and appropriateness scores compared to paid apps (Table 2). The top-ranking apps were Medscape and Epocrates (Table 3). The Apple version of Epocrates scored better for usability than the Android version (score: 17/22 vs. 14/22, respectively), thus affecting its overall quality scores and ranking (Appendix B). Although apps that were among the top 3 ranks had similar appropriateness scores, most of them did not allow for identification of medications based on their

physical features (e.g., shape, color, imprint; n = 14). Furthermore, most apps did not provide supporting references for the content provided (n = 13).

Medication Record. Paid apps in this category were ranked higher in terms of overall quality. The top-ranked apps were Med Helper Pro Pill Reminder and Pillboxie (67.4% each), both of which were paid apps (Table 3). The appropriateness and usability scores were similar for both apps, but Pillboxie had a higher reliability score of 6/12 in contrast to Med Helper Pro Pill Reminder, which had a higher privacy score of 4/4 (Appendix B). More than half of the apps were unable to provide medication reminders or keep track of users' medication schedules (n=5). Most apps were also unable to alert users if an allergy-causing medication was among their active list of medications (n=7).

Discussion

According to the recently released U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines, regulatory oversight is applied to mobile apps that satisfy the definition of a medical device. Depending on the level of risk the use of a mobile medical app poses to a patient's safety, the FDA may require app developers to apply for premarket notification (510k) or premarket approval.^{24,25} However, a majority of the healthrelated apps in the app stores do not fall under the FDA's regulatory oversight. This can be a concern for the increasing number of consumers who download these medical apps. The quality assessment tool developed in this study is to serve as a guide for clinicians to assess the quality of the medical apps in the market before using them in their practice settings or recommending them to patients. Although non-exhaustive, this study identified mobile apps that can be potentially useful for both patients and clinicians in addressing MRPs. The study also identified important deficiencies of currently available apps targeting MRPs, which can serve as an input for future improvements.

Paid apps with the monitoring feature are of higher overall quality than their free versions, in contrast to the other evaluated app features. We postulate that the higher price of these apps may be linked to technical complexity of this feature (e.g., Bluetooth syncing with external devices, data storage, and trending capabilities) and the greater effort put in by developers. Clinicians may choose to use or recommend to patients paid versions of monitoring apps but can also consider the free versions of apps with other features.

Free apps scored higher for privacy than paid apps in this study. Our results were consistent with a recent survey that showed that free apps were more likely than paid apps to include privacy policies.²⁶ A reason could be that most paid apps were usually developed by individuals rather than organizations, hence they are less likely to take user's privacy into account

during app development.²⁷ However, a clearly stated privacy policy on how user information is handled is important to safeguard the privacy of users, which is critical for handling confidential information in certain apps, such as medical record apps.

In general, the reliability scores of apps assessed in this study were low regardless of platform or free/paid versions. In order for apps to be current and reliable, they should be validated regularly either by quality assessment tools, such as the one in this study, or by third-party certifications. For example, Cancer.Net Mobile was the only app that was certified by the Health On the Net Foundation (http://www.hon. ch/HONcode/), thus scoring the highest (10/12, 83.3%) for its reliability. Such evaluations can help filter out useful and reliable apps from app stores.

It was interesting to note that the overall quality of the Apple and Android versions of some apps were different. For example, the Android version of Epocrates contained an additional intravenous-drip rate calculator that was not available on its Apple version. Similarly, iBP Blood Pressure on the Apple platform was able to sync with an external monitoring device for automatic transfer of readings, but not on Android. Therefore, clinicians should be aware that there might be slight differences in the functionalities of the apps when used on different platforms.

A list of recommended apps within the top 3 ranks for each feature category based on their overall quality scores is provided in Table 3. The recommended apps in this list are consistent with those provided by reviewers from the iMedicalApps website (e.g., Medscape and MedCalc).²⁸ However, the difference is that our study classifies the apps into feature categories that target MRPs. In addition, this study assesses the quality of apps with monitoring and medication record features, which, from our knowledge, are not evaluated by iMedicalApps. Furthermore, this study assesses the quality of the apps objectively through a scoring system, which can complement the recommendations provided by the iMedicalApps reviewers based on their experiences with the apps.

Limitations

Owing to the ever-changing nature of information, some of the questions in the quality assessment tool may be time-sensitive. For example, content evaluation of apps with the medication information feature was based on the recent black box warning for carbamazepine to conduct genetic screening in Asian patients who use this medication due to the possibility of Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis.²⁹ Clinicians who intend to use this tool for evaluation of their apps will need to update the content based on their area of specialization.

The apps evaluated were only on the Apple and Android platforms, so the external validity of using this assessment tool across other platforms, such as Windows and Blackberry, is uncertain. This study's results show that the same apps on different mobile platforms are likely to achieve similar scores for appropriateness, reliability, usability, and privacy, suggesting that the quality of apps across other platforms is likely to be similar. It is likely possible to apply this assessment tool across other platforms with minor adjustments.

Finally, the apps evaluated in this study represent a snapshot of the current medical apps that were available during the period of the study. Apps may be removed or updated with time, so the list of recommended apps may change in the future. There is a need to frequently assess the quality of apps to ensure that they remain within certain standards. It is also important to note that user preferences and experiences with the apps will determine whether they are going to continue using recommended apps. Despite the inclusion of criteria to evaluate issues of usability in the quality assessment tool, actual user experiences may have significant influence on the adoption of an app. While this study did not assess if the use of such apps could really reduce or prevent MRPs in clinical practices, future studies can possibly be conducted to determine if there is indeed a role for using medical apps that target MRPs in the health care setting.

Conclusions

A quality assessment tool has been developed to assess the quality of medical apps that target MRPs. This study showed that apps with medication interaction checkers and monitoring features had the highest and lowest overall qualities, respectively. Reliability of apps was generally poor. Paid apps had better usability but poorer privacy scores. Apart from Android apps with monitoring features, the free/paid status of an app generally did not reflect its overall quality. We hope that this tool can assist clinician users and medical app reviewers assessing the quality of apps from a more objective approach. Potential developers of health care apps can also use this tool as a guide to create apps of a better quality standard for appropriate use in the health care setting. The recommended list of ranked apps provided can be utilized as a guide for clinicians to select or recommend an appropriate app in their clinical practices.

Authors

JOHN SHIGUANG LOY, BSC(Pharm)(Hons); ESKINDER ESHETU ALI, BPharm, MSc; and KEVIN YI-LWERN YAP, BSc(Pharm) (Hons), MEng, SDMC, PhD, SRPharmS, Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Science, National University of Singapore.

AUTHOR CORRESPONDENCE: Kevin Yi-Lwern Yap, BSc(Pharm) (Hons), MEng, SDMC, PhD, SRPharmS, Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Science, National University of Singapore, Block S4A, 18 Science Dr. 4, Singapore 117543. Tel.: +65 6601 3253; Fax: +65 6779 1554; E-mail: kevinyap.ehealth@gmail.com.

DISCLOSURES

No outside funding supported this study. The authors have no conflicts of interests directly related to this study.

Study concept and design were contributed by Loy and Yap. Loy collected the data and took the lead in data interpretation, along with Ali and Yap. The manuscript was primarily written by Loy, along with Yap, and revised primarily by Ali, along with Yap.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The paid apps that were used for evaluation in this study were sponsored by the final year project fund from the Department of Pharmacy, National University of Singapore.

REFERENCES

1. Istepanian RSH, Pattichis CS, Laxminarayan S. Ubiquitous m-health systems and the convergence towards 4G mobile technologies. In: Istepanian RSH, Laxminarayan S, Pattichis CS, eds. *M-Health: Emerging Mobile Health Systems*. New York: Springer; 2006:3-14.

2. World Health Organization. *mHealth: New Horizons for Health Through Mobile Technologies*. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2011:102.

3. Boulos MN, Brewer AC, Karimkhani C, Buller DB, Dellavalle RP. Mobile medical and health apps: state of the art, concerns, regulatory control and certification. *Online J Public Health Inform*. 2014;5(3):229. Available at: http://www. ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3959919/. Accessed August 23, 2016.

4. Greenspun H, Coughlin S. mHealth in an mWorld: how mobile technology is transforming health care. Deloitte Center for Health Solutions. 2012. Available at: http://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/pages/life-sciences-andhealth-care/articles/center-for-health-solutions-mhealth-in-an-mworld.html. Accessed August 29, 2016.

5. GSMA Connected Living. mHealth and the EU regulatory framework for medical devices. Available at: http://www.gsma.com/connectedliving/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/mHealth_Regulatory_medicaldevices_10_12.pdf. Accessed August 23, 2016.

6. Boston Consulting Group. The socio-economic impact of mobile health. April 2012. Available at: http://www.telenor.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/BCG-Telenor-Mobile-Health-Report-May-20121.pdf. Accessed August 23, 2016.

7. Smith A. Smartphone ownership 2013. June 5, 2013. Available at: http:// www.pewinternet.org/2013/06/05/smartphone-ownership-2013/. Accessed August 23, 2016.

8. Sanou B. The world in 2013: ICT facts and figures. International Telecommunication Union. February 2013. Available at: http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/facts/ICTFactsFigures2013-e.pdf. Accessed August 23, 2016.

9. Blackbox Research. Smartphones in Singapore: a whitepaper release. May 2012. Available at: http://www.blackbox.com.sg/wp/wp-content/ uploads/2012/05/Blackbox-YKA-Whitepaper-Smartphones.pdf. Accessed August 23, 2016.

10. Networks Asia Staff. Singapore smartphone and tablet penetration on the rise; app usage increasing. June 18, 2013. Available at: http://networksasia. net/article/singapore-smartphone-and-tablet-penetration-rise-app-usage-increasing-1371518626. Accessed August 23, 2016.

11. GlobalData. mHealth: health care goes mobile. August 3, 2012. Available at: http://health care.globaldata.com/media-center/press-releases/medical-devices/mhealth-health care-goes-mobile. Accessed August 23, 2016.

12. Franko OI, Tirrell TF. Smartphone app use among medical providers in ACGME training programs. *J Med Syst.* 2012;36(5):3135-39. Available at: http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10916-011-9798-7. Accessed August 23, 2016.

13. Fox S, Duggan M. Mobile health 2012. Pew Internet Project. November 8, 2012. Available at: http://www.pewinternet.org/files/old-media/Files/ Reports/2012/PIP_MobileHealth2012_FINAL.pdf. Accessed September 2, 2016. 14. Mosa AS, Yoo I, Sheets L. A systematic review of health care applications for smartphones. *BMC Med Inform Decis Mak*. 2012;12:67. Available at: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3534499/. Accessed August 23, 2016.

15. Aungst TD. Medical applications for pharmacists using mobile devices. *Ann Pharmacother.* 2013;47(7-8):1088-95. Available at: http://dx.doi.org/10.1345/aph.1S035. Accessed August 23, 2016.

16. American Society of Hospital Pharmacists. ASHP statement on pharmaceutical care. *Am J Hosp Pharm*. 1993;50:1720-23. Available at: http://www.ashp.org/ doclibrary/bestpractices/orgstpharmcare.aspx. Accessed August 23, 2016.

17. Pharmaceutical Care Network Europe Foundation. Classification for drug related problems (The PCNE Classification V 6.2). January 14, 2010. Available at: http://www.pcne.org/upload/files/11_PCNE_classification_ V6-2.pdf. Accessed September 2, 2016.

18. Oscar R. Smarter pharmacy benefits: How mobile technology communications improve pharmacy utilization and cut costs. *Managed Care Outlook.* 2013;26(8):1-6. Available at: https://www.rxeob.com/secure/pdf/ MCO_Smarter_Pharmacy041513.pdf. Accessed August 23, 2016.

19. Sabaté E. Adherence to Long-Term Therapies: Evidence for Action. Geneva: World Health Organisation; 2003. Available at: http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/42682/1/9241545992.pdf. Accessed August 29, 2016.

20. Bosworth HB, Granger BB, Mendys P, et al. Medication adherence: a call for action. *Am Heart J.* 2011;162(3):412-24. Available at: http://www.ncbi. nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3947508/. Accessed August 23, 2016.

21. Lassetter JH, Warnick ML. Medical errors, drug-related problems, and medication errors: a literature review on quality of care and cost issues. *J Nurs Care Qual.* 2003;18(3):175-81.

22. Llamas R, Reith R, Shirer M. Apple cedes market share in smartphone operating system market as Android surges and Windows phone gains, according to IDC. August 7, 2013. Available at: http://www.webcitation.org/6NOlbrhtT. Accessed August 23, 2016.

23. Chan S, Ahn D, Giunti G, Lally P, Agarwal J. iMedicalApps website. December 10, 2013. Available at: http://www.imedicalapps.com. Accessed August 23, 2016.

24. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Mobile medical applications: guidance for industry and Food and Drug Administration staff. February 9, 2015. Available at: http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/.../UCM263366.pdf. Accessed August 23, 2016.

25. Patel B. Mobile medical applications: guidance for industry and Food and Drug Administration staff. February 9, 2015. Available at: http:// www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/ GuidanceDocuments/UCM263366.pdf. Accessed August 23, 2016.

26. Payne P. Survey shows free apps have significantly higher chance of privacy policy than paid apps. July 17, 2012. Available at: http://www.imedicalapps.com/2012/07/survey-app-developers-privacy-policies/. Accessed August 23, 2016.

27. Cravens A. A demographic and business model analysis of today's app developer. September 26, 2012. Available at: http://research.gigaom.com/ report/a-demographic-and-business-model-analysis-of-todays-app-developer/. Accessed August 23, 2016.

28. iMedicalApps Team. Analysis of free drug medical reference apps: Epocrates, Lexi-Comp, Medscape, Micromedex, Pepid, Skyscape. December 22, 2010. Available at: http://www.imedicalapps.com/2010/12/comparisonof-six-reference-tools-for-the-iphone-epocrates-lexi-comp-medscape-micromedex-pepid-skyscape-iphone-app/5/. Accessed August 23, 2016.

29. Ferrell PB Jr, McLeod HL. Carbamazepine, HLA-B* 1502 and risk of Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis: US FDA recommendations. *Pharmacogenomics*. 2008;9(10):1543-46. Available at: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2586963/. Accessed August 23, 2016.

	APPENDIX A Quality Assessment Tool for Evaluating Medical Apps	
Se i.	ction A (Assesses the appropriateness of app to serve its intended function for targeting medication-related problems) Monitoring Feature (This section assesses an app's feature that allows users to monitor or record the efficacy/toxicity of medications in te improvement in symptoms or adverse effects)	erms of
Ma	aximum Possible Score: 24	
1.	Can app monitor more than 1 physiological parameter (e.g., blood glucose, body temperature, heart rate)? (0) No, only 1 physiological parameter can be monitored (1) Yes, more than 1 physiological parameter can be monitored	Score:
2.	Does app allow users to set target goals for physiological parameters (e.g., blood glucose, blood pressure)? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
3.	Does app allow recording of symptoms? (0) No symptoms can be recorded (1) Only subjective symptoms can be recorded (2) Objective symptoms can be recorded	Score:
4.	Can an external monitoring device (e.g., blood pressure monitor, glucometer) sync with the app to record physiological readings? (0) Yes (Proceed to Q5) (1) No (Skip Q5)	Score:
5.	Can the monitoring device automatically transfer readings to the app in real time? (0) No, manual entry of data by user is required (1) Yes, data are automatically transferred but at a later time (when user syncs) (2) Yes, data are automatically transferred to app in real time (by wireless networks/Bluetooth)	Score:
6.	Does the app need to be used in a controlled environment (e.g., quiet place with no interference)? (0) Yes (1) No	Score:
7.	Does the app require a health care professional to perform the monitoring for patients? (0) Yes, a health care professional is required (1) No, monitoring can be performed by patients themselves	Score:
8.	Is there a specific section that allow recording of medication(s) taken? (0) No, medication cannot be recorded (1) Yes, but only medication name can be recorded (2) Yes, able to record medication name + dose or timing/frequency (3) Yes, able to record medication name + dose + timing/frequency	Score:
9.	Does app organize patient's health monitoring input (e.g., vital signs) in chronological order? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
10	 Is there a feature to display trends of monitored parameter(s) (e.g., graph)? (0) No (1) Yes 	Score:
11	. Does app allow users to display a saved history of measurement results? (0) No, there is no display of results/user cannot select a time frame for display of results (1) Yes, but display is based only on a limited number of recordings (e.g., past 10 readings) (2) Yes, display can be based on a selected time frame (e.g., weeks/months/years)	Score:
12	 Does app classify severity of medical condition(s) based on pre-set cutoff measurements? (0) No, measurements are not classified into severity (1) Yes, but it is not clearly stated whether classification is supported by evidence (2) Yes, it is clearly stated that classification is based on evidence/clinical guidelines 	Score:
13	 b. Does app alert users on abnormal readings that are out of the normal range? (0) No, users are not alerted (1) Yes, abnormality is indicated qualitatively (e.g., highlighted using color code) (2) Yes, abnormality is indicated quantitatively (e.g., high/low or normal range is provided to user) 	Score:

	APPENDIX A Quality Assessment Tool for Evaluating Medical Apps (continued)	
14.	. Does app provide a management plan for an abnormal measurement? (0) No, there is no management plan provided (1) Yes, only a general management plan is provided (2) Yes, a patient-specific management plan is provided	Score:
15	. Can a password/pin be set to access the recorded data/parameters? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
16.	. Does the app allow monitored data to be backed up/stored? (0) No, data cannot be stored (1) Yes, but data are non-transferable (e.g., stored on device itself) (2) Yes and data are transferable (e.g., to an external storage device, cloud)	Score:
ii.	Medication Interaction Checker Feature (This section assesses an app's feature that has the ability to perform interaction checks between more medications)	2 or
Ma	aximum Possible Score: 18	
1.	Does app allow medication to be searched by different names? (0) No search function is provided (1) Yes, either generic or brand name can be searched (2) Yes, both generic and brand name can be searched	Score:
2.	Does app display a list of possible interactions associated with a single medication? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
3.	Does app detect multiple drug-drug interactions concurrently? (0) No, only 1 pair of drug-drug interaction can be detected at any 1 time (1) Yes, multiple drug-drug interactions can be detected at any 1 time	Score:
4.	Can the app detect interactions with complementary and alternative/herbal medicines? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
5.	 Which of the following details other than the interaction effect(s) are provided: severity of interaction(s), mechanism(s) of interaction, and management plan(s)? (0) Only 1 of those above is provided (1) 2 of the above are provided (2) All 3 details are provided 	Score:
6.	Does app categorize interactions according to severity? (0) No, app does not classify severity/classification rubric is not available (1) Yes, classification rubric is provided but information is not supported by evidence/references (2) Yes, classification rubric is provided and information is supported by evidence/references	Score:
7.	 Does app provide details on the comprehensiveness of the interaction database (e.g., number of medications/interactions detected by the database)? (0) No details are provided (1) App is a standalone with no information on the comprehensiveness of the database provided (2) App is a standalone and information on the comprehensiveness of the database is provided (3) App follows a parent database but no information on the comprehensiveness of the database is provided (4) Yes, app follows a parent database and comprehensiveness of database is provided 	Score:
8.	Does app allow interaction checks against a previously saved medication list? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
9.	Are there spelling or grammatical errors in the interaction content? (0) Major errors that compromise the level of understanding (1) Some errors but they do not compromise the level of understanding (2) No errors present	Score:

	APPENDIX A Quality Assessment Tool for Evaluating Medical Apps (continued)	
10	 . Is the content of the app reviewed? (0) Not reviewed/not stated (1) Yes, reviewed internally (2) Yes, reviewed externally 	Score:
iii	. Dose Calculator Feature (This section assesses an app's feature that is used explicitly for calculating medication doses)	
M	aximum Possible Score: 11	
1.	Can app perform dose calculation based on weight of patient? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
2.	Does app include an antibiotic dose calculator? (0) No (1) Yes, but app does not adjust for renal/liver dysfunction in the calculation (2) Yes, and app takes into account renal/liver dysfunction in the calculation	Score:
3.	Does app include an IV drip rate calculator? (0) No, app is unable to calculate drip rate for IV medications (1) Yes, app can calculate drip rate for IV medications	Score:
4.	Can app calculate dose equivalent conversion(s) of medications within the same pharmacologic class where applicable (e.g., statins)? (0) No, dose conversion(s) cannot be performed (1) Yes, dose equivalents can be calculated	Score:
5.	Does app provide a formula and/or explain how calculation is derived? (0) No information is provided (1) Yes, either formula or explanation for calculation is derived	Score:
6.	Once calculation has been performed, is administration instruction provided? (0) No, administration instruction is not provided (1) Yes, administration instruction is provided	Score:
7.	Are the units of medication(s) consistent throughout the calculation (e.g., if unit for input are in mg, does final calculation show strength in mg/mL)? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
8.	Is the content of the app reviewed? (0) Not reviewed/not stated (1) Yes, reviewed internally (2) Yes, reviewed externally	Score:
9.	Is the formula used supported with reference citations/evidence? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
iv.	Medication Information Feature (This section assesses an app's medication database on whether it is able to provide clinically relevant information about medications)	
M	aximum Possible Score: 22	
1.	Does the app have a search box to search for information on specific drugs/medications? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
2.	Can the drug/medication be searched based on multiple categories (generic name, brand name, disease/medical condition)? (For example, generic name: carbamazepine, brand name: Tegretol, medical condition: neurologic disorder) (0) No. the drug can only be searched by 1 category	Score:

(0) No, the drug can only be searched by 1 category (1) Yes, the drug can be searched by at least 2 out of 3 categories

	Appendix A Quality Assessment Tool for Evaluating Medical Apps (continued)	
3.	From the search results, are the core information (medication, indication, dosing instruction, contraindication, and side effects) and supplementary information (precaution, drug interaction) provided? (0) Not all the core information (listed above) is provided (1) All the core information (listed above) is provided, without any supplementary information (2) Yes, all the core information and any supplementary information (listed above) are provided	Score:
4.	Does medication reference provide information if the medication can be purchased over the counter or requires a prescription? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
5.	Does app include information for special populations (e.g., pediatrics, pregnancy, renal/liver dysfunction)? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
Fo	r questions 6-8 , refer to the following black box warning about the pharmacogenomic effects of carbamazepine (Tegretol):	
Bla	teck box warning: Serious dermatologic reactions and HLA-B*1502 allele	
	 Serious and sometimes fatal dermatologic reactions, including toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) and Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), have been reported during treatment with Tegretol. These reactions are estimated to occur in 1 to 6 per 10,000 new users in countries with mainly Caucasian populations, but the risk in some Asi countries is estimated to be about 10 times higher. Studies in patients of Chinese ancestry have found a strong association between the risk of developing SJS/TEN and the presence of HLA-B*1502 inherited allelic variant of the HLA-B gene. HLA-B*1502 is found almost exclusively in patients with ancestry across broad areas of Asia. Patients with ancestry in genetically at-risk populations should be screened for the presence of HLA-B*1502 prior to initiating treatment with T Patients testing positive for the allele should not be treated with Tegretol unless the benefit clearly outweighs the risk. 	n an 12, an Tegretol.
6.	Does medication reference classify the above information for carbamazepine (Tegretol) as a black box warning? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
7.	How comprehensive is the information provided by the app on pharmacogenomic and serious dermatologic effects of carbamazepine? (0) None of the information is provided (1) Some of the information is provided (2) All of the information is provided	Score:
8.	Does app provide relevant medication-related resources for specific drug classes, where applicable (e.g., antibiotic susceptibility charts; dose-conversion charts for cholesterol-lowering statins, steroids, or opioids)? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
9.	Does app contain a pill identifier feature? (0) No, there is no such feature (1) Yes, but feature does not include pictures of medications (2) Yes, feature includes pictures of medications	Score:
10	Does app provide details on the comprehensiveness of the database (e.g., number of medications in the database)? (0) No details are provided (1) App is a standalone with no information on the comprehensiveness of the database provided (2) App is a standalone and information on the comprehensiveness of the database is provided (3) App follows a parent database but no information on the comprehensiveness of the database is provided (4) Yes, app follows a parent database and comprehensiveness of the database is provided	Score:
11	Is there a summary of the evidence on a medication's therapeutic use with supporting reference citations? (0) No evidence summary or supporting references are provided (1) Yes, either the evidence summary or supporting references are provided (2) Yes, both the evidence summary and supporting references are provided	Score:
12	Are there any spelling or grammatical errors? (0) Yes, there are major errors that compromise the level of understanding (1) Yes, there are some errors but they do not compromise the level of understanding (2) No, there are no errors present	Score:

	APPENDIX A Quality Assessment Tool for Evaluating Medical Apps (continued)	
13	. Is the content of the app reviewed? (0) Not reviewed/not stated (1) Yes, reviewed internally (2) Yes, reviewed externally	Score:
v.	Medication Records Feature (This section assesses an app's feature that allows users to record their current medication therapy)	
M	aximum Possible Score: 8	
1.	 Does app allow all of the following patient's biodata (age, weight, allergy, medical history, medical condition) and current medications to be input? (0) Not all of the above mentioned data can be input (1) Both patient's biodata and current medications can be input 	Score:
2.	Does app allow users to edit their medication list? (0) No, not at all (1) Yes, users can add/remove medication according to their prescription	Score:
3.	Is there an adherence and reminder feature to allow users to record when their medication was taken? (0) No, there is no such feature available (1) Yes, there is a recording function but no medication reminder is available (2) Yes, both the recording and medication reminder functions are available	Score:
4.	Is the app able to provide/allow users to add basic therapeutic information regarding the medication? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
5.	Can app alert user on medication allergy(s)/interaction(s) from the user's active medication list? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
6.	Can a password/pin be set to access patient's medication records? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
7.	Does app allow data to be stored externally? (0) No, data are non-transferable (e.g., stored on device itself) (1) Yes, data are transferable (e.g., external storage device, cloud)	Score:

Section B (Reliability) (This section assesses if an app is reliable and unbiased for users to utilize for medication-related purposes. Most of the requirements to determine reliability can be found in the "About" section within the app)

Maximum Possible Score: 12

1.	Is the target audience for app use clearly defined/stated? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
2.	Does section icon/heading/title accurately reflect content within section? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
3.	Are the names and credentials of the app creators/authors stated? (0) Both not mentioned (1) Either name(s) or credential(s) indicated (2) Both name(s) and credential(s) indicated	Score:
4.	Does app contain a disclaimer (or a statement of similar implication) that the information provided/content will not replace a health care professional's judgment? (0) No	Score:

(1) Yes

	APPENDIX A Quality Assessment Tool for Evaluating Medical Apps (continued)	
5.	Are the sources of funding clearly stated? (0) Not clearly stated (1) Yes, clearly stated	Score:
6.	Are there any conflicts of interests declared? (0) No declaration stated (1) Yes, stated clearly (2) No conflicts of interest exist and this is stated clearly	Score:
7.	Is there any evidence of bias (e.g., advertisements) present? (0) Yes (1) No	Score:
8.	Is there a third-party certification by a medical or governmental organization? (0) No certification present (1) Certification present	Score:
9.	Is the date of last update stated? (0) Not stated (1) Only a states how often app is updated without providing actual date of last update/only provides month and year of update (2) Yes, actual date of last update is stated	Score:
Se (T	ction C (Usability) his section assesses if an app is easy to use, provides user support, and is able to cater to the needs of different users)	
Ma	aximum Possible Score: 22	
1.	Is the app intuitive to use? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
2.	Are there any user interface problems that compromise the ease of navigation within the app? (0) Yes, to a large extent that it compromises the ease of navigation (1) Yes, but only to a small extent that does not compromise the ease of navigation (2) No problems present	Score:
3.	Is the screen layout well organized/not cluttered? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
4.	Is the font of a readable size by default? (0) Not readable by default (can only be viewed on a larger screen) (1) No, but user can zoom in and panning is required (2) Yes	Score:
5.	Are the terminologies understandable by a layperson? (0) Not at all (1) Sometimes (2) Most of the time (3) All the time	Score:
6.	Is there a help feature present? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
7.	Can features of the app be accessed from any page? (0) No, features can only be accessed from main home page (1) Yes	Score:
8.	Does the app require an internet connection to get started? (0) Yes, the pages will only load with an internet connection (1) No. I can still retrieve information that I downloaded earlier	Score:

APPENDIX A	Quality Assessment Tool for Evaluating Medical Apps (continued)
------------	---

9.	Are there any broken links? (0) Many broken links (1) Few broken links (2) No broken links	Score:
10	Is the graphical user interface adaptable to both portrait/landscape view when the phone is rotated? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
11	Is app customizable based on user preference? (0) Not customizable at all (1) Yes, but to a limited extent (2) Yes, mostly customizable	Score:
12	. Can users bookmark pages for quick access? (0) No/bookmark feature is unavailable (1) Yes	Score:
13	. Are the contact details of developer/feedback section provided? (0) No (1) Yes	Score:
14	How often does the app crash/exit unexpectedly? (0) Frequently (1) Occasionally (2) Rarely (3) Never	Score:
Se (Tl	ction D (Privacy) nis section assesses the privacy protection of user input data; i.e., data security)	
Ma	aximum Possible Score: 4	
1.	How is the privacy policy stated on the app? (0) No privacy policy present at all (1) Privacy policy mentions the collection of user data only (2) Privacy policy mentions the collection of user data and how it is being used	Score:
2.	Can users choose what content to share? (0) Users cannot choose what content to share/content cannot be shared at all (1) Users can choose what content to share	Score:
3.	Can users choose who to share content with through electronic means? (0) No feature that allows sharing of content exists/users cannot choose who they want to share content with (1) Yes, there is a feature that allows users to select a person whom they want to share content with	Score:

APPENDIX B Ranking of Apps Across All Platforms and Versions According to Overall Quality Scores										
App Name	Rank	Overall Quality Score (%) ^a	Appropriateness Score	Reliability Score	Usability Score	Privacy Score	Platform	Version		
Apps with Monitoring Feature		Maximum score: 62	Maximum score: 24	Maximum score: 12	Maximum score: 22	Maximum score: 4				
Cancer.Net Mobile	1	49 (79.0)	15	10	20	4	Apple	Free		
Blood Pressure Diary Pro		42 (67.7)	18	3	19	2	Android	Paid		
HeartWise Blood Pressure Tracker	2	42 (67.7)	15	5	21	1	Apple	Paid		
iBP Blood Pressure	1	42 (67.7)	18	3	19	2	Apple	Paid		
iBP Blood Pressure		41 (66.1)	16	3	20	2	Android	Paid		
Blood Pressure Monitor - Family Lite	3	41 (66.1)	18	2	19	2	Apple	Free		
Manage My Pain Pro	4	40 (64.5)	12	5	19	4	Android	Paid		
Blood Pressure Diary	5	39 (62.9)	15	3	19	2	Android	Free		
Blood Pressure Companion	6	38 (61.3)	16	2	18	2	Apple	Paid		
iHeart - Pulse Reader	6	38 (61.3)	18	3	17	0	Apple	Paid		
Blood Pressure (My Heart)		37 (59.7)	15	2	18	2	Android	Free		
Headache Diary Pro		37 (59.7)	14	2	20	1	Android	Paid		
Blood Pressure Companion Free	8	35 (56.5)	16	1	16	2	Apple	Free		
BP Tracker - Blood Pressure Tracker	9	34 (54.8)	15	2	17	0	Apple	Paid		
Blood Pressure	10	33 (53.2)	13	2	16	2	Android	Free		
Blood Pressure - Smart Blood Pressure (SmartBP) BP Tracker	10	33 (53.2)	13	2	15	3	Apple	Free		
Heart Pal - Blood Pressure Tracker	11	32 (51.6)	15	2	15	0	Apple	Paid		
Diabetes In Check	12	31 (50.0)	12	3	13	3	Apple	Free		
HeartBeat Counter Free	12	30 (48.4)	10	1	19	0	Apple	Free		
Vision Test	13	30 (48.4)	9	2	17	2	Apple	Free		
Blood Pressure Tracker by Tapcalc	14	28 (45.2)	10	3	13	2	Apple	Paid		
BP Buddy	15	26 (41.9)	8	3	14	1	Apple	Paid		
Test Your Hearing	16	24 (38.7)	6	2	13	3	Android	Free		
Eye Test	17	23 (37.1)	5	2	16	0	Apple	Paid		
Color Blind Test	18	22 (35.5)	6	2	14	0	Apple	Free		
Color Blindness Test	19	21 (33.9)	6	1	12	2	Android	Free		
DetectsFever	20	19 (30.6)	6	3	10	0	Apple	Free		
Apps with Medication Interaction Checker Feature		Maximum	Maximum	Maximum	Maximum	Maximum				
hpps with medication interaction checker readure		score: 56	score: 18	score: 12	score: 22	score: 4				
Medscape	1	43 (76.8)	15	8	16	4	Android	Free		
	-	43 (76.8)	15	8	16	4	Apple	Free		
Skyscape Medical Resources (RxDrugs)	2	39 (69.6)	13	6	18	2	Android	Free		
Epocrates	3	36 (64.3)	9	8	17	2	Apple	Free		
Epocrates	4	33 (58.9)	9	8	14	2	Android	Free		
Drugs.com Medication Guide	5	32 (57.1)	16	3	11	2	Android	Free		
Apps with Dose Calculator Feature		Maximum score: 49	Maximum score: 11	Maximum score: 12	Maximum score: 22	Maximum score: 4				
		37 (75.5)	9	8	16	4	Android	Free		
Medscape	1	37 (75.5)	9	8	16	4	Apple	Free		
MedCalc	2	33 (67.3)	6	7	18	2	Apple	Paid		
Epocrates	3	30 (61.2)	3	8	17	2	Apple	Free		
Mediquation Medical Calculator		29 (59.2)	7	5	17	0	Android	Paid		
Calculate by QxMD	4	29 (59.2)	6	5	16	2	Android	Free		
Calculate by QxMD	~	28 (57.1)	6	5	15	2	Apple	Free		
Epocrates	5	28 (57.1)	4	8	14	2	Android	Free		
Lippincott Nursing Drug Handbooks		27 (55.1)	3	7	17	0	Apple	Free		
Pedi STAT	0	27 (55.1)	3	6	16	2	Android	Paid		

APPENDIX B Ranking of Apps Across All Platforms and Versions According to Overall Quality Scores (continued)										
App Name	Rank	Overall Quality Score (%) ^a	Appropriateness Score	Reliability Score	Usability Score	Privacy Score	Platform	Version		
Apps with Dose Calculator Feature		Maximum score: 49	Maximum score: 11	Maximum score: 12	Maximum score: 22	Maximum score: 4				
MedCalc 3000 Complete	7	25 (51.0)	8	3	14	0	Android	Paid		
IV Drips		22 (44.9)	3	3	16	0	Android	Paid		
Medical Calculator	8	22 (44.9)	5	3	14	0	Apple	Paid		
Paramedic Meds		22 (44.9)	4	3	15	0	Android	Paid		
Apps with Medication Information Feature		Maximum	Maximum	Maximum	Maximum	Maximum				
		score: 60	score: 22	score: 12	score:22	score: 4				
Medscape		43 (71.7)	15	8	16	4	Apple	Free		
	1	43 (71.7)	15	8	16	4	Android	Free		
Epocrates		43 (71.7)	16	8	17	2	Apple	Free		
Epocrates	2	40 (66.7)	16	8	14	2	Android	Free		
Lippincott Nursing Drug Handbooks	2	38 (63.3)	14	7	17	0	Apple	Free		
MIMS		38 (63.3)	15	5	18	0	Apple	Paid		
MIMS	4	37 (61.7)	15	5	17	0	Android	Paid		
Skyscape Medical Resources (RxDrugs)	т	37 (61.7)	11	6	18	2	Android	Free		
Micromedex Drug Information	5	36 (60.0)	15	5	14	2	Android	Free		
Drugs.com Medication Guide	6	35 (58.3)	19	3	11	2	Android	Free		
Drugs & Medications	7	32 (53.3)	9	3	18	2	Apple	Paid		
Johns Hopkins ABX Guide	8	31 (51.7)	10	7	14	0	Android	Paid		
MIMS Singapore	0	31 (51.7)	12	4	15	0	Apple	Free		
iPharmacy	9	24 (40.0)	9	3	9	3	Apple	Free		
Antibiotics pocket	10	22 (36.7)	5	4	13	0	Android	Paid		
Medical Drugs Dictionary: FREE	11	21 (35.0)	3	2	14	2	Android	Free		
Drugs Dictionary	12	19 (31.7)	3	1	13	2	Android	Free		
Apps with Medication Record Feature		Maximum	Maximum	Maximum	Maximum	Maximum				
https with Medication Record Feature		score: 46	score: 8	score: 12	score: 22	score: 4				
Med Helper Pro Pill Reminder	1	31 (67.4)	5	2	20	4	Android	Paid		
Pillboxie		31 (67.4)	5	6	20	0	Apple	Paid		
My Medical Info	2	30 (65.2)	5	3	20	2	Android	Paid		
My Medical	3	29 (63.0)	4	4	20	1	Android	Paid		
Family Medical Info	4	26 (56.5)	3	2	19	2	Android	Paid		
Pill Monitor Free–Medication Reminders and Logs	5	21 (45.7)	4	1	15	1	Apple	Free		
Drugs.com Medication Guide	6	20 (43.5)	4	3	11	2	Android	Free		
iPharmacy	7	18 (39.1)	3	3	9	3	Apple	Free		
^a Overall quality score is a composite of appropriateness, reliability, usability, and privacy scores, reflected as a percentage of the total score.										