

**Personal digital assistant usage among undergraduate medical students: exploring trends, barriers,
and the advent of smartphones**

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APPENDIX A

Survey questions

1. What year of your undergraduate medical education are you in?
 - 1st
 - 2nd
 - 3rd
 - 4th
2. What device(s) do you currently own?
 - I don't own a handheld electronic information device/personal digital assistant (PDA).
 - Palm OS
 - Palm Z 22
 - Palm T/X
 - Palm Tungsten E2
 - Palm LifeDrive
 - Other: please name _____
 - Microsoft Pocket PC
 - Dell Axim X51v
 - HP iPAQ hx1955
 - HP iPAQ hx2495
 - Asus MyPal A632
 - Other: please name _____
 - BlackBerry
 - Blackberry Pearl
 - BlackBerry Curve
 - BlackBerry 8800 series
 - BlackBerry 8700 series
 - Other: please name _____
 - Integrated PDA/phone
 - O2 Xda Mini Pro
 - Samsung SCH1730
 - PalmTreo 650
 - PalmTreo 700w
 - Other: please name _____
 - Other type of device: please name _____

3. If you could have any device you wanted, which would you choose?
- Palm OS
 - Palm Z 22
 - Palm T/X
 - Palm Tungsten E2
 - Palm LifeDrive
 - Other: please name _____
 - Microsoft Pocket PC
 - Dell Axim X51v
 - HP iPAQ hx1955
 - HP iPAQ hx2495
 - Asus MyPal A632
 - Other: please name _____
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 - Other: please name _____
 - Other type of device: please name _____
4. How did you learn to use your PDA? (check all that apply)
- Peers
 - PDA manual
 - Internet guide
 - Departmental training
 - Library training
 - Taught myself
 - I am still trying to figure my PDA out
 - Other: please name _____
5. What programs/applications have you downloaded to your PDA? (check all that apply)
- PEPID
 - Access Medicine
 - Harrison's Manual of Medicine
 - Merck Manual
 - Epocrates Rx
 - ACP Pier
 - Archimedes
 - EBM calculator
 - MedCalc

- InfoRetriever
- AvantGo
- MEDLINE on Tap
- Other: please name _____
- 6. How much money have you spent on programs/applications for your PDA?
 - Nothing. I use only free applications.
 - \$1–50
 - \$50–100
 - \$100 or more
- 7. Which of the programs/applications that you have do you find most useful?
Please name your top three: _____
- 8. How often do you use your PDA?
 - Once a day or more?
 - 2–3 times a week?
 - Once a week?
 - Once a month?
 - Rarely (less than once a month)
- 9. Please indicate the ways in which you use your PDA (check all that apply)
 - Access email, Internet, or text messages
 - Calendar, addresses, or task management
 - Access rotation/course information (handouts, evaluations, schedules)
 - Take notes, do homework, perform other academic tasks
 - Access a drug reference (ex., Pepid)
 - Perform clinical calculations
 - Access a clinical reference or e-textbook
 - Access dictionaries
 - Access medical literature, abstracts, or guidelines. If you do please answer the questions below.
- 9.a. Have you searched Ovid MEDLINE or PubMed via PDA?
 - Yes
 - No
- 9.b. How often are your searches successful? (i.e., Do you find the answer you are looking for:)
 - Always
 - Sometimes
 - Rarely
 - Never
- Translate a foreign language (e.g., medical French)
- Record audio, video, or still pictures
- Access a different diagnosis or treatment plan
- Enter SOAP notes
- Patient data or patient orders
- Track patients, access lab results or patient information

10. What type of training would be beneficial to you with regard to PDAs? (check all that apply)
- Initial training in the basic functions of PDAs (choosing the right model, downloading resources, beaming, hot synching, etc.)
 - Use of general resources for PDAs (word processing, spreadsheets, address book, calendar)
 - Use of health sciences resources for PDAs (Harrison's, PDR, Patient Tracker, drug resources)
 - Other: please name _____
11. In what format would you prefer instruction?
- Group lecture-style sessions led by an instructor
 - Online tutorials
 - Hands-on, interactive small group sessions
 - Other: _____
12. What library-provided programs and services for your PDA would you find useful?
- Accessing the library catalogue
 - Accessing online databases
 - Asking the librarian questions via your PDA
 - Name other resources or services you would like to have: _____
13. Are you satisfied with library support for PDAs?
- Yes
 - No
14. Do you believe all medical students should be required to own a PDA?
- Yes
 - No
15. Do you believe use of a PDA in the 1st and 2nd years of the MD program is important preparation for clinical years?
- Yes
 - No
16. Have any of your instructors encouraged you to purchase/use a PDA?
- Yes
 - No
17. Have you seen any of your instructors using PDAs or other handheld devices?
- Yes
 - No
18. Please share any other comments you may have about handheld devices or resources.
19. If you would be willing to participate in a focus group discussion with other medical students on this topic, please leave your contact information below so that we may get in touch with you to make the appropriate arrangements.