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Collins MF. Measuring performance indicators in clinical pharmacy services with a personal digital assistant. *Am J Health Syst Pharm* 2004 Mar 1;61(5):498-501. [PMID: 15018228].

Al-Ubaydli M. Handheld computers. *BMJ* 2004 May 15;328(7449):1181-4. [PMID: 15142928].

McAlearney AS, Schweikhart SB, Medow MA. Doctors' experience with handheld computers in clinical practice: Qualitative study. *BMJ* 2004 May 15;328(7449):1162. [PMID: 15142920].

ABSTRACT: OBJECTIVE: To examine doctors' perspectives about their experiences with handheld computers in clinical practice. DESIGN: Qualitative study of eight focus groups consisting of doctors with diverse training and practice patterns. SETTING: Six practice settings across the United States and two additional focus group sessions held at a national meeting of general internists. PARTICIPANTS: 54 doctors who did or did not use handheld computers. RESULTS: Doctors who used handheld computers in clinical practice seemed generally satisfied with them and reported diverse patterns of use. Users perceived that the devices helped them increase productivity and improve patient care. Barriers to use concerned the device itself and personal and perceptual constraints, with perceptual factors such as comfort with technology, preference for paper, and the impression that the devices are not easy to use somewhat difficult to overcome. Participants suggested that organisations can help promote handheld computers by providing advice on purchase, usage, training, and user support. Participants expressed concern about reliability and security of the device but were particularly concerned about dependency on the device and over-reliance as a substitute for clinical thinking. CONCLUSIONS: Doctors expect handheld computers to become more useful, and most seem interested in leveraging (getting the most value from) their use. Key opportunities with handheld computers included their use as a stepping stone to build doctors' comfort with other information technology and ehealth initiatives and providing point of care support that helps improve patient care.

Dobrousin A, Wilderman I. Which hand-held computer is better for doctors? Part 2: Comparing models with Microsoft operating systems. *Can Fam Physician* 2004 Apr;50:595-8. [PMID: 15116807].

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Schuerenberg BK. A tablet a day. *Health Data Manag* 2004 Mar;12(3):56-8. [PMID: 15058087].

Peterson M. Library service delivery via hand-held computers--the right information at the point of care. *Health Info Libr J* 2004 Mar; 21(1):52-6. [PMID: 15023209].

ABSTRACT: Today's health and medical librarians are well aware of the move towards evidence-based clinical practice which has emerged during the past decade. Hand-in-hand with this trend is the need for health practitioners to have access to the best possible evidence to help them in their clinical decision making. Libraries have a key role in the provision of information to their clients, and this means keeping abreast, not only of the various information sources available, but also the means by which those sources may be used. This paper will examine the effects that the hand-held computer is having on the work practices of our clients-library users. It is hoped that the paper will give an insight into the various types of library material which are suitable for use with hand-held devices, and an understanding of their advantages and limitations.

Greenberg R. Use of the personal digital assistant (PDA) in medical education. *Med Educ* 2004 May; 38(5):570-1. [PMID: 15107122].

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ABSTRACT: With so much information and so many systems available to handle it, finding the right solutions for your units can get complicated. Start with the basics of nurse communication, then find your best fit.

Bower NS. Put technology at your fingertips with a PDA. *Nurse Pract* 2004 Feb; 29(2): 45-6. [PMID: 14872171].

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ABSTRACT: Clinicians stay connected with tools that offer real-time data, including personal digital assistants, patient care robots, network voice communication badges, and telehealth. Using this technology, clinicians will soon be able to access the patient's entire electronic health record at the point of care. Although the hardware and the software are evolving, many solutions are currently available.