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Dr. BlackBerry: Eight Apps Making Medicine More Mobile

BlackBerry smartphones and physicians go together like Popeye and spinach. Here's a look eight medical-related BlackBerry applications that doctors, nurses and their assistants are using to improve your healthcare experience.

By Al Sacco

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WED, JULY 29, 2009 — **CIO** — Physicians may not have been the first professionals to embrace BlackBerry devices and smartphones, in general. But they sure aren't wasting any time nowadays. Heck, Dr. John Halamka, CIO of both Beth Israel Deaconness and Harvard Medical School is regarded as a mobile guru, even [appearing in his own BlackBerry ad campaign](#).

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BlackBerry Curve 8330 with Stethoscope

Many doctors and nurses and healthcare organizations have resisted the move from traditional "feature" cell phones, pagers, recorders and other "old-school" gadgets to smartphones due to security concerns and comfort with existing technologies, says Fraser Edward, BlackBerry-maker Research In Motion's (RIM) manager of market development, healthcare.

But the tide is changing, and doctors and their medical staffs, like everyone else, have seen all the new BlackBerry/iPhone/Pre advertising, and they want in on the mobile technology revolution.

Luckily, BlackBerry devices in particular are known throughout the tech world for RIM's strict security safeguards. So BlackBerrys and medical environs could potentially be a match made in security/privacy-heaven.





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At least according to Edward, who recently gave CIO.com a state-of-mobile-tech-in-healthcare update during which he showed off a crop of cool, new BlackBerry apps for doctors, nurses and medical staffs.

Here's a look at the medical-related BlackBerry applications that really caught my eye, along with a brief description of each, pricing information--where available--and a Web locale to obtain the software--or at least additional information on how to do so.

Now, let's move on to the latest and greatest in BlackBerry software for medical professionals and their patients.

Medical Reference & Drug Guides

Perhaps the most basic of medical applications for BlackBerry smartphones, mobile medical reference guides from software companies like QxMD and Epocrates Rx help promote patient safety by giving doctors and physicians immediate and simple access to information on specific drugs/narcotics, drug interactions, dosage recommendations and much more.

Such applications offer efficient, rapid and relevant search compared to printed medical reference guides. Guides also enable doctors or physicians to make or validate medical decisions at the point of care, decreasing time to diagnosis/prescription and reducing potential medical errors, according to RIM.

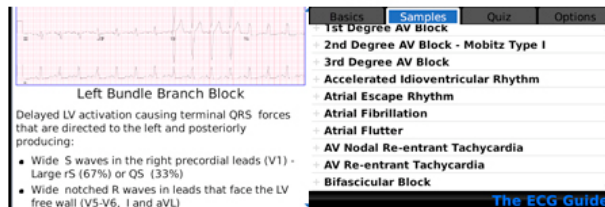
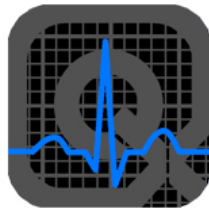
1) QxMD ECG Guide

Creator: [QxMD Software](#)

Description, from BlackBerry App World: "The ECG Guide app offers ECG interpretation from a Cardiology perspective, with over 120 high resolution ECG examples and a quiz feature." (Note: QxMD also offers a variety of free, medical-related software, like a pregnancy wheel, cardio calculator and a gastroenterology tool.)

Price: \$7.99

Where to Download: [BlackBerry App World](#)



QxMD ECG Guide Icon and Screen Shots

2) Epocrates Rx

Creator: [Epocrates Inc.](#)

Description, from Epocrates.com: "[S]ubscription drug reference provides hundreds of medication monographs and enables you to easily check for interactions among prescription, [over the counter] OTC, and alternative medicines. Plus, find the right treatment for hundreds of infectious diseases, and check IV compatibility in a jiffy."

Additional features include a valuable "pill identification" option, which helps you identify pills of unknown origin; detailed information on more than 600 common alternative medicines; and detailed treatment guidelines for hundreds of infectious diseases.

Price: \$99.99 a year; \$169.99 for two-year subscription

Where to Download: [Epocrates.com](#)



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Epocrates Screen Shots on BlackBerry Curves

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Anonymous Fri, 2009-07-31 09:40

I have been using Skyscape medical resources on my black berry and have nice experience. it makes my life easy.

Paul Richards Tue, 2009-08-04 14:48

I have been using The ECG Guide by QxMD on my iPhone for some time, but recently switched over to the BlackBerry Storm. This program is an indispensable mobile tool and cheaper than a textbook. I mostly use it for review, but can imagine it would be a fantastic learning App.

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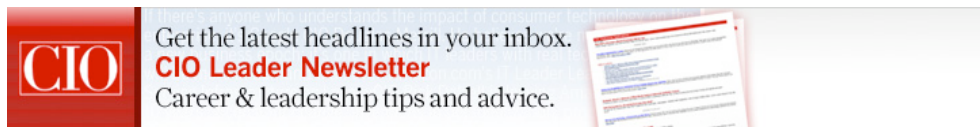
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