



# Two free, comprehensive drug reference apps for your practice

📱 The Epocrates and Medscape apps could allow for rapid decision making

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I understand that you as an ObGyn do not have the time or bandwidth to “vet” the available mobile apps for your practice. However, that does not mean you need to forgo using apps that could make your clinical life a little easier if possible. In this continuation of my “APP review” series, I focus on drug reference apps, which generally include the names of drugs, their indications, dosages, pharmacology, drug-drug interactions, contraindications, cost, and identifying characteristics.<sup>1</sup> Drug reference apps, along with medical calculator and disease diagnosis apps, are reported as most useful by health care professionals and medical or nursing students.<sup>1</sup> Drug reference apps are particularly popular among residents and medical students as the apps allow for rapid decision making.<sup>2</sup>

I have selected 2 drug reference apps—Epocrates and Medscape—to report here



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as both of these apps are free and are the only apps that appear in independent comprehensive studies.<sup>1,3</sup> I particularly like Epocrates’ pill identification function for those patients who have forgotten the name of the medication they use but have the actual pill with them. I find Medscape’s additional information on diseases, conditions, and medical procedures especially useful for the times I have forgotten the condition that the medication is indicated for.

The recommended apps are listed in the **TABLE** on page 38 alphabetically and are detailed with a shortened version of the APPLICATIONS scoring system, APPLI (app comprehensiveness, price, platform, literature use, and important special features).<sup>4</sup> Visit the OBG MANAGEMENT website to download the apps featured.

Watch for my next column in which I will recommend, according to APPLI, the top apps for patients to use to track their menstrual cycles. 📱

## References

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**TABLE Top 2 recommended apps: Drug reference applications**

App	App comprehensiveness	Price	Platform	Literature used	Important special features
 <p><b>Epocrates</b></p> <p>iTunes Preview: <a href="https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/epocrates-reference-tools/id281935788?mt=8">https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/epocrates-reference-tools/id281935788?mt=8</a></p> <p>Google Play: <a href="https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.epocrates&amp;hl=en">https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.epocrates&amp;hl=en</a></p>	<p>For most drugs, information is provided for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adult and pediatric dosing</li> <li>• formulary</li> <li>• alternatives</li> <li>• contraindications/cautions</li> <li>• adverse reactions</li> <li>• drug interactions</li> <li>• safety/monitoring</li> <li>• pregnancy/lactation</li> <li>• pharmacology</li> <li>• manufacturer/pricing</li> <li>• pill pictures</li> </ul>	Free	iTunes and Google Play stores	Not reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drug interaction checker</li> <li>• Pill identifier</li> <li>• Medical calculators</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Medscape</b></p> <p>iTunes Preview: <a href="https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/medscape/id321367289?mt=8">https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/medscape/id321367289?mt=8</a></p> <p>Google Play: <a href="https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.medscape.android&amp;hl=en">https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.medscape.android&amp;hl=en</a></p>	<p>For most drugs, information is provided for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• dosages and indications</li> <li>• adverse effects</li> <li>• warnings</li> <li>• pregnancy</li> <li>• pharmacology</li> <li>• administration</li> <li>• images</li> <li>• formulary</li> </ul>	Free	iTunes and Google Play stores	References provided in diseases, conditions, medical procedures, and medical news sections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on diseases, conditions, and medical procedures with tables, images, and videos covering pathophysiology, epidemiology, differential diagnosis, and treatment options</li> <li>• Drug interaction checker</li> <li>• Pill identifier</li> <li>• Medical calculators</li> <li>• Medical news</li> </ul>