

COVID-19 apps for the ObGyn health care provider: An update

Ten apps to help clinicians stay informed about COVID-19 and evolving clinical decision making

Lillian C. Chen, MD, MPH, and Katherine T. Chen, MD, MPH

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More than one year after COVID-19 was declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020, the disease continues to persist, infecting more than 110 million individuals to date globally.¹ As new information emerges about the coronavirus, the literature on diagnosis and management also has grown exponentially over the last year, including specific guidance for obstetric populations. With abundant information available to health care providers, COVID-19 mobile apps have the advantage of summarizing and presenting information in an organized and easily accessible manner.²

This updated review expands on a previous article by Bogaert and Chen at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.³ Using the same methodology, in March 2021 we searched the Apple iTunes and Google Play stores using the term “COVID.” The search yielded 230 unique applications available for download. We excluded apps that were primarily developed as geographic area-specific case trackers or personal symptom trackers (193), those that provide telemedicine services (7), and nonmedical apps or ones published in a language other than English (20).

Here, we focus on the 3 mobile apps previously discussed (CDC, My Osler, and Relief Central) and 7 additional apps (TABLE). Most summarize information on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of coronavirus, and several also provide information on the COVID-19 vaccine. One app (COVID-19 Resource for Midwives) is specifically designed for obstetric providers, and 4 others (CDC, COVID-19 Protocols, Medscape, and WHO Academy) contain information on specific guidance for obstetric and gynecologic patient populations.

Each app was evaluated based on a condensed version of the APPLICATIONS scoring system, APPLI (comprehensiveness, price, platform, literature used, and special features).⁴

We hope that these mobile apps will assist the ObGyn health care provider in continuing to care for patients during this pandemic.



Dr. Lillian Chen is a first-year resident in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Science, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, New York.







Dr. Katherine Chen is Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Science and Medical Education, Vice-Chair of Ob-Gyn Education for the Mount Sinai Health System, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York. She is an OBG MANAGEMENT Contributing Editor.

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TABLE Recommended COVID-19 apps

App	Comprehensiveness	Price	Platform	Literature used	Important special features
 <p>iTunes: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/cdc/id487847188 Google Play: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.cdc.general&hl=en_US&gl=US</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical decision making (clinical treatment guidelines) Reference and information gathering (medical literature, medical news) 	Free	iTunes and Google Play	CDC website, scientific journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section on care for pregnant patients Vaccine updates Guidelines for workplace safety and infection control Videos on testing, vaccination, and symptom review targeted toward health care providers and patients
 <p>COVID-19: Response (United Nations) iTunes: https://apps.apple.com/de/app/covid-19-response/id1513391764?l=en Google Play: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.un.corona&hl=en_US&gl=US</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical decision making (clinical decision support systems) Reference and information gathering (medical literature, medical news) 	Free	iTunes and Google Play	UN, WHO, PAHO, scientific journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated resources for patients, health care workers Overview of global COVID-19 goals regarding health care policy, economics, regional pandemic overviews Resources on well-being and domestic violence
 <p>COVID-19 Protocols (Brigham and Women's Hospital) iTunes: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/covid-19-protocols/id1514563997</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical decision making (clinical treatment guidelines, disease diagnosis aids) Reference and information gathering (medical literature) 	Free	iTunes	CDC, scientific journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section on care of pregnant patients Vaccine updates Guides for patient management and infection control in different health care settings
 <p>COVID-19 Resource for Midwives (Association of Ontario Midwives) iTunes: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/covid-19-resource-for-midwives/id1510033043</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical decision making (clinical treatment guidelines, laboratory test ordering) Reference and information gathering (medical literature) 	Free	iTunes	Provincial Council for Maternal and Child Health, scientific journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guides for screening, antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum management of patients

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TABLE Recommended COVID-19 apps (continued)







App	Comprehensiveness	Price	Platform	Literature used	Important special features
 <p>Epocrates iTunes: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/epocrates/id281935788 Google Play: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.epocrates&hl=en_US&gl=US</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical decision making (clinical treatment guidelines) • Reference and information gathering (medical literature) 	Free basic information, \$16.99 for premium subscription	iTunes and Google Play	CDC, WHO, scientific journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment guidelines stratified by age and disease status • Drug and vaccine trial updates • Billing and coding guidelines for providers
 <p>First Responder COVID-19 Guide (Stanford Medicine) iTunes: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/first-responder-covid-19-guide/id1505677599</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical decision making (clinical treatment guidelines) • Reference and information gathering (medical literature) 	Free	iTunes	Stanford Medicine, CDC, scientific journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance on testing and infection control • Information regarding current clinical research and clinical trials
 <p>Medscape iTunes: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/medscape/id321367289 Google Play: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.medscape.android&hl=en_US&gl=US</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical decision making (clinical treatment guidelines) • Reference and information gathering (medical literature, medical news) 	Free	iTunes and Google Play	CDC, WHO, scientific journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video on diagnosis/management of COVID-19 in pregnancy • Multimedia resources (articles, videos) • Updates on vaccine and drug trials • Guidance for specific professions uniquely impacted by the pandemic (ie, surgeons)
 <p>My Osler iTunes: https://apps.apple.com/la/app/my-osler/id1504015523 Google Play: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.oslertechnology.myosler&hl=en_US&gl=US</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical education and training (e-learning and teaching) 	Free	iTunes and Google Play	Scientific journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modules on PPE and antiviral treatments

TABLE Recommended COVID-19 apps (continued)

App	Comprehensiveness	Price	Platform	Literature used	Important special features
 <p>Relief Central iTunes: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/relief-central-covid-19/id353219185</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical decision making (clinical treatment guidelines) • Reference and information gathering (medical literature) 	Free	iTunes	CDC, WHO, scientific journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines for treatment, specimen collection • Updates on new coronavirus strains • Vaccine guidelines and effectiveness studies
 <p>WHO – WHO Academy (WHO) iTunes: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/who-academy-covid19-learning/id1506019873 Google Play: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.who.WHOA&hl=en_US&gl=US</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical decision making (clinical treatment guidelines) • Reference and information gathering (medical literature) 	Free	iTunes and Google Play	WHO, scientific journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modules on pregnancy, breast feeding • Virtual learning events (webinars) • Targeted guides for patients and health care providers

Abbreviations: CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019; PAHO; Pan American Health Organization; PPE, personal protective equipment; UN, United Nations; WHO, World Health Organization.

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