

## Responses from the “M3 Handheld Technology Questionnaire”

### What handheld technology do you feel has been helpful for you during your M3 year, if any?

- iPhone with Epocrates, Eponyms, and Medcalc
- iPod with epocrates, diagnosaurus
- iPod touch with epocrates and diagnosaurus (and doodle jump for long rounding days)
- iTouch with Epocrates and Medical Abbreviations
- Anything with the ability to access google
- PDA with epocrates
- iphone with epocrates, wireless access in the hospital (can page people, use up to date)
- i pod touch! I didnt have it for the first few months, and then when I got it, I increased my productivity a lot.
- iphone with epocrates has been amazing, useful for studying basic facts about disease epidemiology/signs and symptoms/complications/treatments.
- I use windows mobile with epocrates, but I like the iPhone's epocrates interface better.
- I used pen and paper. I was not at any disadvantage without an electronic device.
- iPhone with Epocrates, DxSaurus.
- iTouch for the sole purpose of Epocrates (and getting to check my email occasionally)
- ipod touch with free apps for epocrates, DxSaurus, and medcalc - with internet access frequently accessed careweb, ctools, email and google
- iPhone with Epocrates
- Hardware: iPhone
- Software: Epocrates, Wikipedia app, Medical Eponyms app
- ipod touch with epocrates and skyscape apps.
- iPod touch with the following apps: epocrates, Growth Charts, MedCalc, Eponyms
- iPod Touch with Epocrates
- iphone with epocrates, diagnasaurus, eponyms, and a pdf reader
- iPod Touch with Epocrates, Diagnosaurus, AHRQ ePSS (gives preventive care clinical guidelines for patient demographics that you type in)
- iPhone with Epocrates, Eponyms, MedCalc, easy internet access when extra computers aren't available in clinics/team rooms. Great for a quick Google search. Also use iCal to keep track of schedule.
- itouch with wikipanion & epocrates
- iPod Touch, though I only use it periodically
- iPhone -> epocrates, Dxsaurus (\$0.99), Skyscape with Dynamed - very helpful, MedCalc, Groupwise web app (\$0.99)
- Diagnosaurus for Blackberry
- iPod Touch

- iPod Touch w/ Skyscape, Epocrates, and GoodReader
- Iphone w/ epocrates and various other apps
- iPhone with Epocrates was sometimes useful, but hardly necessary. The fact that things like google and wikipedia can be accessed on it was sometimes nice, too. Again, hardly important.
- Did not use one, but I think that iTouch seems like it was the best out of what my friends were using. Epocrates, something you can google with, and some of the cool calculators and aps (Diagnosaurus, FeNa calculators, etc) can come in handy at times.
- iPhone, Epocrates, UpToDate on iPhone.
- iPhone with Epocrates, Diagnasaurus, and general internet access
- iphone with calendar, epocrates, uptodate, and diagnosaurus (less helpful for actual work, but great for getting emails, killing time, doing work during lectures, etc.)
- iPhone with epocrates, diagnosaurus
- Blackberry with Epocrates
- iPod Touch with UpToDate has been the most useful.
- iPhone with Epocrates, Medcalc, and Eponyms
- I did not buy any handheld devices for M3 year and I feel like I was able to do fine without them. You have access to many computers on the floors, so you often can just use those.
- Honestly, I used pen and paper all through my M3 year, and it was really fine. You might be able to get some things done more quickly, ie email etc, if you have an iphone, but I don't and it really was not a problem at all.
- blackberry with epocrates is helpful, but not necessary
- Itouch w/ epocrates - I have a buddy at OSU who's a year junior to me. Epocrates has a week where they give many schools across the country (not UMich) free access to epocrates for a year. So I had him sign up and I've been taxing it all year.
- Also, uptodate is money...and pay attention to using "OVID" during orientation
- ipod touch - highly recommend.
- useful apps: epocrates, medcalc, diagnosaurus, wikipedia, eponyms (in that order; also available are many of the pocketbooks - for a fee)
- i pod touch, really, its as good as an iphone and you don't have to pay any service charges (there is internet everywhere in the hospital)
- iphone with epocrates, diagnasaurus, eponyms, and internet access.
- blackberry for email
- epocrates
- I touch with epocrates
- iPhone with MedScape. I thought Medscape was more helpful than Epocrates and it was free.

**What technology did you invest in that was not as helpful as you thought it would be?**

- did not purchase anything specifically for 3rd year, already had iPhone
- To some extent the iPhone was not at all a necessary technology for the wards but it did make finding information easier while rounding or working up patients.
- Blackberry with Epocrates
- downloaded Skype (free) but didn't use it that much
- Epocrates for Blackberry (crashed my phone repeatedly)
- books
- reference cards
- you don't NEED a PDA/smartphone for school, but they are nice
- I got the iPod Touch because my contract with Verizon was not up. In retrospect that was the right choice anyway because I paid a one-time fee (~\$200) and no monthly internet fee. It works through wireless internet, so you can get internet access nearly everywhere M3 year (UM hospital and clinics, St. Joe's, your own home, just NOT the VA which for many is only one month).
- I found having a handheld convenient for looking up things quickly on rounds or before going into the OR, etc. I also could check my e-mail easily and quickly which was helpful. Being able to send a page when you are not immediately at a computer is nice too.
- cyborg
- pocketbooks.
- PDA phone

## Any other wisdom or comments to pass along?

- The iPod touch is a very cost effective alternative to the iPhone. Epocrates is a must.
- Make sure you put identifying info on your iphones, etc, they are everywhere!
- definitely not necessary to have a smartphone but if you already have one definitely download epocrates (its free)
- I liked having the full versions of the pretest series on my iphone, they cost about 30 bucks and I always had questions and detailed answers at my fingertips no matter where I was.
- I think each device really depends on the person. iPhone and epocrates is good, but there are other options out there that work for other people.
- Given the prevalence of computers all over the hospital, I don't think a handheld device is necessary on the wards. But it does make life and rounds slightly easier at times.
- iTouch is great, but there's not wireless at the VA to connect to.
- ipod touch was the best investment I made for third year, I chose it because I did not want to pay the monthly fee for the phone and I have been able to use it at all but 1 of my clinical sites because they have wireless
- Some areas of the hospital did not have wireless internet access so having an internet phone was not helpful. I found computers at basically every corner so I just accessed information from there.
- The Medical app section of the iPhone app store is great. It's full of all sorts of nifty apps for specific rotations, many of which are free or cheap.
- Also, having a bookmark to UptoDate on the iPhone browser is really useful as well.
- the ipod has made answering quick clinical questions and checking up on patient information that much easier this year, especially when computers can be scarce. also, accessing the paging website came in handy on surgery rounds when the team was often split up and we had to coordinate wound care in a timely manner.
- I would also recommend just using a browser to bookmark electronic books that are pertinent to your rotation. It makes reading when you have downtime significantly easier.
- Students who want an iPod Touch rather than an iPhone but are worried about WiFi access should know that getting a WiFi signal has not been an issue for me at the U. Also, St. Joe's has a guest wireless network so there's free WiFi there. Henry Ford, however, does not have a WiFi network that handheld devices can get on in the hospital (at least they didn't in August and Sept when I was there).
- There are computers all over the place, so generally I felt like it was a good thing that I didn't have an iPhone to distract me. Sometimes not being able to page from lectures, the 2nd floor, etc was a downside.

- Pocket medicine is sweet!
- I would recommend buying the Taracson's pharmacopia and Sanford antimicrobial guide. These ended up being as useful as my iPod touch in most situations.
- Handheld technology is not necessary. If someone is interested in having a handheld device, an iPhone or iPod Touch are by far the best platforms to use. They have the most software available and are the easiest to use.
- Use an iphone/ipod touch
- no technology is going to make you a better student...that comes from reading.
- Just don't sweat this subject. Chances are excellent you're already twice as good at this technology stuff as your residents and attendings, and they expect next to nothing in terms of techno-stuff. I mean, the technology you'll have to use is pretty much the best 1996 has to offer, so there is a pretty huge gap between a smart phone and your day to day work.
- I did not invest in a handheld device for M3 year. While there are things that it is useful for, it is definitely not necessary and you won't get a worse grade or not be as sharp as your fellow students just because you don't have a PDA. There is a computer at every corner in this hospital. I liken it to M2 lectures, it might be nice to have a device to check your e-mail or look up something during lecture, but I did just fine paying attention to the lecturer and looking things up later.
- An iPod Touch would be \*almost\* as useful as an iPhone, but for at the VA (no Wi-Fi access there) and other non-UMHS facilities (UpToDate access is through the U of M wireless network).
- Learn to use a variety of sources, like UpToDate and MDConsult for quick reference. You can get access to UpToDate off-campus using Virtualsites of VPN
- learn how to get careweb from home. most textbooks are available online from the library webpage
- As I mentioned above, I think having a handheld is definitely helpful. Having just wireless access (not 3G) will definitely suffice. In the M4 year i understand it is important to be very responsive to e-mails for interviews most of the time, and with frequent travel having a phone with e-mail and internet might be better, but that comes into play October of M4 year so I don't know how important that is to consider in April before M3 year. There is a rumor that iPhone might be available through other wireless carriers after this June . . .

The iPod/iPhone provides a LOT of apps and the ability to link websites to your home screen which allows easy quick access to info. Some I found useful:

- safari is the internet explorer which gives you quick access to wikipedia which is always useful
- UpToDate is great (accessible through UM network)
- DynaMed is like uptodate but more to the point in paraphrases

- the free version of Epocrates has drugs and MedMath which is a calculator for BMI, anion gap, MELD scores, etc which is handy.
- AHRQ ePSS (free) is great for family medicine - it an app from the US Preventive Task Force that provides recommendations for screening based on age, gender, and risk factors (smoking, etc)
- ECG Guide (\$5) is somewhat useful for quick EKG reference and explanations
- Scrabble (\$5) is great for Seminar in Medicine (you can even play against your friends . . .)

Good luck!

- By no means feel you are at a disadvantage by not having a handheld. I never used one on the wards and never came across a time when I wish I had one. Besides, it's cooler and "old-school" to whip through pages of the redbook or tarascon's pharmacopeia than using an iphone everyone else has.
- Although I did not buy one, many M3s said that they thought the iPhone and iTouch were very useful.
- the whitecoat clipboard (a foldover pocket clipboard)
- Get an iPhone or itouch
- Beware of looking things up during rounds with your iPhone even if you are trying to be helpful as it can look like you're texting or not paying attention to some of the more old school attendings.