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Use of smartphones in patient care

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Use of smartphones in patient care

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Abstract

It is difficult to go to town, to a party or meet friends and socialize, without sighting someone using a smartphone. Increased level of smartphone usage is connected with enhancements in education, societal, and governmental participation, mostly in developing countries. Smartphones make it much easier to find answers for any question at anytime and anywhere by searching through “Google.” Healthcare apps make smartphones useful tools in the practice of evidence based medicine/pharmacy/nursing at the point of patient care. In addition, use of smartphones play a major role in “patient education, self-management or self-care, and remote monitoring of patients.”

Keywords: Smartphone, Internet, Patient care, Applications

Introduction

The use of smartphones is increasing day by day. Nowadays, smartphone is one of the key requirements of life.¹ Smartphones have transformed the way we exchange our information with friends, colleagues and family by chatting or calling in Whatsapp, Wechat, Line, Viber, and posting on someone’s wall on facebook or interacting on twitter. Increased use of smartphones contributes to the enhancements in education, societal and governmental participation, mostly in developing countries (are increasingly becoming commonplace).² When it comes to learning new things, smartphones make it much easier to find answers of any question at anytime and anywhere just like “Google.”

In addition to that there are many examples of free smartphone applications that has made our life simpler such as “Medscape, WebMD, Red Cross First Aid, Doctor on Demand, Dosage

Adjustment and Drug-Interaction Checkers, Mobile Dictionaries, Mobile Banking, Maps, Weather apps”, etc. Being able to receive emails is a design of how smartphones have facilitated taking care of professional expansion.^{3,4}

Advantages of smartphones

There are five main advantages of smartphones described below individually and depicted in figure 1.

Communication

Communication plays an important role in day-to-day life through the sharing of information with family, friends, and colleagues in the form of text messages, voice messages and one to one talking. Smartphones improve communication between doctors, pharmacists and nurses in the healthcare setup.⁵ Well-timed communication is a fundamental means by which unwanted casualties can be reduced.

Internet Access

Smartphones use two diverse tools to access the Internet by the cellular network and Wi-Fi. Smartphone browsers are usually the easiest approach to use the internet. With internet connection, smartphones facilitate applications such

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as emails, message chatting, multimedia messaging, video calling, conferencing and social networking.⁶

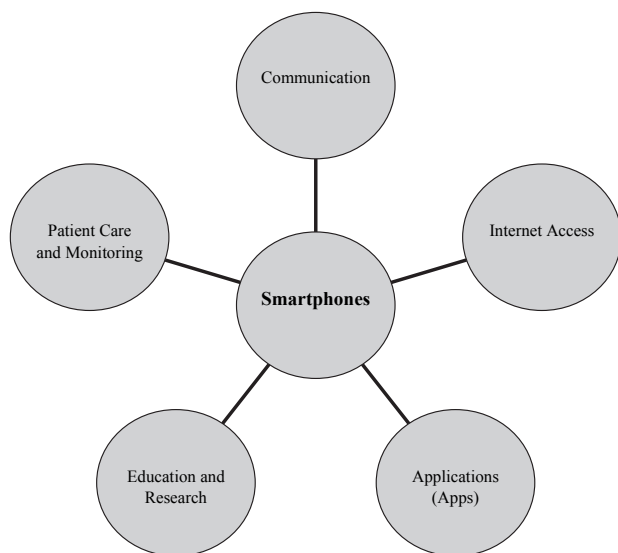


Figure 1: Advantages of Smartphones

Applications (Apps)

At present, more than one-lakh m-health apps are available and it is projected that by 2017, 3.4 billion apps will be available globally.^{4,5,7} Today, more number of apps are targeted not only for professionals but also for the untrained, unprofessional, unqualified users, to promote health empowerment and work efficiency related tasks. WebMD, Health and Fitness, Psych Drugs and Medications, Medscape, GetMyRx, eCO Study, Accurate Insulin Decisions (AID), etc. are of some the freely available medical apps⁸

Education and Research

Smartphones play an important role in medical, nursing, pharmacy, other allied healthcare education and training. Smartphones are helpful for continuing medical/pharmacy/nursing education, assessment of students' knowledge, case studies, e-learning and teaching, skill assessment tests and simulation. Students use smartphones for various purposes: to record their experiences, to access data about the drug, disease and lifestyle modifications, and to create basic notes.^{4,5,9}

Patient Care and Monitoring of smartphone to monitor the health of patients with chronic diseases is rampant nowadays. Smartphone apps are used for scheduling appointments and meetings, public health

observation, service in community data assortment, or assistance to the disabled persons. Smartphone apps serve as useful patient care tools. Smartphone apps offer data on diagnosis, treatment, pathogens, infectious diseases and others.^{4,5,10}

Conclusion

In summary, a smartphone can certainly be smart if the retailers/wholesalers, society, scientists, engineers and technicians understand their accountability towards usage of these devices elegantly in order to get further advantage in education, health, social life and business. It is evident from above actualities that the advantages of smartphones are incredible and negative impressions are negligible. So it is imperative to relook in what way to stop and avoid misuse of smartphone.

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Errata

1. The name of the corresponding author of the article titled “Efficacy of methanolic extract of Piper longum on endothelial function in vitro and ex vivo” by Vinay Kumar Kanakpura, Sumanta Kumar Goswami, Shekhar Dethé, Mohammed Naserrudin Inamadar published in Manipal Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Vol 2, Issue 1; March 2016: 26 is wrongly spelled.

The correct spelling of the name should read as Mohammed Naseeruddin Inamdar.

2. The affiliations of the authors in the article titled “Development and Evaluation of Ethosomal Gel of Lornoxicam for Transdermal Delivery: In-Vitro and In-Vivo Evaluation” by Ankit Acharya, Mohammed Gulzar Ahmed, Baba Datteshwara Rao, Vinay C H published in Manipal Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Vol 2, Issue 1; March 2016: 13 is wrongly mentioned.

The correct affiliation should read as:

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