

# Feeding your software-hungry PDA

By John J. Fried

**P**ersonal digital assistants, or PDAs, are little tyrants of sorts. Whether you've been carrying one of these devices around for 2 years or 2 weeks, it always seems to demand a fresh infusion of new software to fill its memory banks and update old programs.

As a follow-up to our Technology column in the April 2006 *Community Oncology*, here are some more programs to consider, some specific to nurses and hematologists. Like the PDA software outlined in April, some of these programs are cousins to those first developed for computers. Others are digital reincarnations of books, clinical guides, or medical journals. Some are free. Others will cost you. But all will help you grapple with the medical decisions you have to make each day, making your life and patient care easier and more efficient.

## Myriad's BRCA 1/2 Mutation Prevalence Guide

Myriad says that the data provided in the program represent observations of deleterious mutations by its clinical testing service. Of course, because the understanding of mutations evolves, the BRCA 1/2 guides are updated every 6 months.

Myriad also offers a PDA-based version of its Mutation Prevalence Tables information. That information is updated "periodically." Both the guide and the tables, which are available for Palm and Pocket PC handhelds, are free; however, you have to register on Myriad's Web site if you want to get e-mail notifications about updates. [www.myriadtests.com/provider/brca.htm](http://www.myriadtests.com/provider/brca.htm)

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## Dorland's Pocket Medical Dictionary

The book version of Dorland's has been considered the gold standard in medical dictionaries since it was first issued 100 years ago. The PDA version includes 2,800 new terms and, according to its vendor, skyscape.com; all of the dictionary's anatomy terms "reflect the new Terminologia Anatomica," whereas its "500 new drug terms reflect the 2000 editions of the USP and PDR."

The Pocket Medical Dictionary—published by W.B. Saunders, which is part of Elsevier Health Sciences Company, the publisher of *Community Oncology*—will fit the Palm and Pocket PC operating systems and costs \$39.95. [www.skyscape.com/estore/ProductDetail.aspx?ProductId=1042](http://www.skyscape.com/estore/ProductDetail.aspx?ProductId=1042)

## Herb-Drug Interactions in Oncology

With so many patients putting their faith in complementary health care, a reference work that outlines how commonly used herbs interact with conventional drugs is a must. *Herb-Drug Interactions*, available for Palm and Pocket PC handhelds, offers information on 140 popular herbal remedies and their interactions with medications used for the treatment of cancer.

The program costs \$49.95, but a free trial version is available. To use it on your PDA you need MobiPocket Reader, free software used for reading eBooks and other reading materials. The software can be downloaded from [www.mobipocket.com/en/DownloadSoft/ModeEmploi.asp](http://www.mobipocket.com/en/DownloadSoft/ModeEmploi.asp).

For *Herb-Drug Interactions*, go to

<http://handheldmed.com/Site.New/Pages.php?p=proddetail&PR ODID=342>.

## The Davis Drug Guide for Nurses

The Davis Drug Guide includes information on 5,000 trade and generic drugs, 150 drug classifications, and 500 commonly used combination drugs. It also contains 760 tools for calculating doses according to the patient's weight or body surface. The Guide, for both Palm and Pocket PCs, is \$49.95. An SD memory card-based version is also available for \$64.95. [www.skyscape.com/estore/store.aspx?category=36](http://www.skyscape.com/estore/store.aspx?category=36)

## Lexi-Nursing Suite

The \$175 suite includes Nursing Lexi-Drugs, with references to almost 500 drugs; Lexi-Interact, which gives the user access to more than 1,300 monographs on drug interactions; Lexi-Lab & Diagnostic Procedures, with references to more than 1,200 laboratory tests, internal medicine, and diagnostic radiology procedures; Lexi-CALC for calculating things like body mass index; and Lexi-I.V. Available for both Palm and Pocket PCs. [www.lexi.com](http://www.lexi.com)

## Clinical Hematology-Oncology 2006

A bargain at only \$12.95, *Clinical Hematology-Oncology 2006*, available for Palm and Pocket PCs, offers references for presenting, diagnosing, and treating a wide assortment of hematologic and oncologic illnesses. It also includes detailed discussions about oncologic emergencies, lead toxicity, cell abnormalities, and transfusion medicine. The program does require MobiPocket Reader.

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Both Clinical Hematology-Oncology and MobiPocket Reader are available at the Collectivemed Web site. [www.collectivemed.com](http://www.collectivemed.com)

## English-Spanish Medical Dictionary, 3rd Edition

With the growing number of Hispanic patients seeking medical care, many of whom speak limited or no English, it's becoming increasingly important for practitioners to learn how to communicate in Spanish. This dictionary from Stedman's can help bridge the communications gap, whether you are taking a history or trying to determine a course of treatment. The dictionary includes more than 20,000 oncology, neurology, and cardiology terms, among others. The \$39.99 program is for Palm and Pocket PCs.

[www.stedmans.com/product.cfm/506/215](http://www.stedmans.com/product.cfm/506/215)

## PatientKeeper Personal

With PatientKeeper, you can greatly ease the burden of keeping track of your patients, including their lab results and a wide assortment of biomedical information such as vital signs and oxygen sat-

uration levels. The program also offers you the opportunity to write assessment notes and histories.

Currently, PatientKeeper is offered for the Palm platform only. The program is \$39.95, but a trial version is available. A manual, which requires Adobe Reader, is available for download. [www.pkpersonal.com/](http://www.pkpersonal.com/)

**L**OADING YOUR HANDHELD with software can be a great boon—but also a great pain if you don't do it right. Doing it right means you must:

- **Create a special folder on your hard drive for downloaded programs.** Store the programs in this folder before you install them on the PDA. *Remember to back up the folder.*
- **Keep a record of the registration or activation keys for your programs.**

Without them you won't be able to re-install most programs on your PDA, if the need arises.

■ **Know how to uninstall programs you no longer use.** A good utility to help uninstall programs from Palm products is InWatch Uninstaller. It is available at [www.palmgear.com](http://www.palmgear.com).

For a handy guide to uninstalling Pocket PC programs, go to [www.pocketpcmag.com/\\_archives/nov03/tips.asp](http://www.pocketpcmag.com/_archives/nov03/tips.asp)