Reviewer's report

Title: How residents and interns utilise and perceive the personal digital assistant and UpToDate

Version: 3 Date: 4 June 2008

Reviewer: Scott Strayer

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Minor Essential Revisions:

When "PDA software" appears, please use "PDA software applications"

Page 4, 1st para....replace "shown themselves to be" with "have become"

Page 5, 1st para in "Methods"....please change the following sentence so that it does not end with "for": "During the time of the study, UpToDate was the only electronic resource which our hospital had an institutional subscription for."

Consider: "During the time of the study, UpToDate was the only electronic resource for which our hospital had an institutional subscription."

Please clarify how you found out what software interns had loaded? Was this in the questionnaire?

pg. 13, para 1...please add "applications" to...."along with technical support and the installation of these software applications."

pg. 13, 2nd para....consider eliminating the sentence:" This gives one an idea of the properties of an..." I think that this is self-evident from the described desirable properties. Also, for the next sentence....please add: "topics" to the introduction "Given that UpToDate features topics in..."

pg. 13, 3rd para.: please use another word other than "surfaced" in the first sentence. Consider: However, our study revealed two concerns.... or another similar word choice.

pg. 14, 2nd para. remove "doctors' PDAs" in the following sentence:"This may again reflect a lack of technical support for physicians using PDAs" The support is for the physicians, not the software. Also, I believe it is overall technical support (not just the software).

pg 15, 1st para. change the third limitation to read: "Third, as this is a questionnaire study...."

pg. 15, 1st para. please clarify what is meant by "none of our house staff's PDAs had this thought). First of all, I would re-phrase it to state that none of our house staff had this on their PDA's, and then clarify if you are referring to the software UpToDate or the operating systems (Windows CE and Palm OS).
Pg. 16, Conclusions. Change the opening sentence to: "To conclude, UpToDate and various PDA software applications were deemed useful by some of the residents and interns in our study, however both digital tools were under-utilised."

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have received consulting fees from Palm, ePocrates and UpToDate. I am in the speaker's bureau for UpToDate.