

Point of Care Tools

Selected by University of Alberta Health Sciences Librarians

Definition: Synthesis of current evidence for diagnosis, testing and treatment designed for rapid consultation at the point of patient care. Ideally should be evidence-based and frequently updated, with links to the relevant literature as well as drug information, ICD coding, information for patients, PDA application, and provision for links to electronic health records.

1. **ACP PIER (American College of Physicians: Physicians Information and Education Resource)**: evidence-based online clinical tool for physicians of internal medicine including complementary and alternative medicine. For each topic, presents newest evidence, summaries of key points, prevention, screening, diagnosis, tests, treatment and follow-up, as appropriate, with links to the literature. *PDA application*
2. **Clinical Evidence (BMJ)** Summary of systematic reviews on a wide range of topics, each with a brief plain language summary of key points, a table of effective / unproven / ineffective treatments, links to the sources, to relevant recent articles and to drug information, plus commissioned papers on various topics and links to EBM tools
3. **Dynamed (EBSCO)** Clinical reference tool created by physicians, evidence-based with quality of evidence indicated: updated daily from surveillance of over 500 journals : drug information : patient information : focused on patient-oriented outcomes and absolute risks : includes ICD 9 coding : links to literature : PDA application : links to health or medical records. Intuitive interface. Licensed nationally in England for National Health Service staff : endorsed by the American Academy of Family Physicians. Proven to answer most clinical questions in primary care. <http://www.ebscohost.com/dynamed/>
4. **Nursing Reference Centre (EBSCO)**: A comprehensive reference tool designed to provide relevant clinical resources to nurses and other health care professionals : covers conditions and diseases, drug information, patient education , diagnostic details, best practice guidelines, point-of-care reference books and evidence-based care sheets (as in CINAHL) <http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=16&topicID=860>
5. **FIRSTConsult (Elsevier)** is an evidence-based clinical information tool for health care providers. FIRSTConsult synthesizes findings from journals and other evidence-based references into a templated knowledge base. It offers tools for differential diagnosis, evaluation and management of medical conditions, patient education, and procedure skills review. FIRSTConsult also provides links to [MD Consult](#) for automatic searching of the clinical reference and current awareness resources found in MD Consult. Downloads to handheld devices available
6. **BMJ Point of Care** Diagnostic tools, disease monographs, guidelines, drug prescribing information and interactions, medical calculators, links to PubMed, treatment arranged by patient group. Summary screen presents highlights, basics, diagnosis, treatment, follow-up, references and images for each conditions. Developed by BMJ and Epocrates <http://group.bmj.com/products/knowledge/bmj-point-of-care>
7. **Essential Evidence Plus (formerly InfoPoems/InfoRetriever)** <http://www.essentialevidenceplus.com/> The “only database system of filtered, synopsised, evidence-based information, this integrated search engine allows you to simultaneously

search, via keyword, multiple databases” EBM guidelines, Daily POEMs [Patient Oriented Evidence that Matters], Cochrane Abstracts, selected practice guidelines, decision support calculators, H&P calculators, diagnostic text calculators, ‘Derm Expert’, E/M coding, ICD-9 Lookup Tool. PDA application. No apparent link to the literature.

8. **Up to Date** Online version of a textbook. Not highly ranked in terms of evidence base. PDA application. Recently purchased by WoltersKluwer : changes likely
<http://www.uptodate.com/home/index.html>
9. **Clin-eguide (OVID)**: includes evidence-based guidelines, 5-minute Consult database, evidence-based nursing content, 2 drug handbooks (one being Drug Facts and Comparisons), 2 sources for patient handouts, OVID Medline, 3 differential diagnosis tools, medical calculators, interaction checker (drug/food/herb) and links for integration with electronic health records. Complex interface.
<http://www.clineguide.com/marketing/ContentPage.aspx>
10. **Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews** High-level evidence : patient information Very ‘busy’ interface : less user-friendly than others for rapid use : not as highly synthesized as other tools : updated quarterly
11. **Harrison’s Practice** : based on the textbook Harrison’s Practice of Internal Medicine : designed to provide fast diagnosis and treatment summaries with links to the literature : consistent, clean, simple interface. Includes images, drug database and patient information. Wireless and PDA applications
<http://www.harrisonspractice.com/practice/ub>

Free:

Clinical Knowledge Summaries (formerly Prodigy): U.K. National Health Service product designed to provide “ a reliable source of evidence-based information and practical ‘know-how’ about the common conditions managed in primary care ; provides quick answers to real-life questions that arise in the consultation, linking to detailed answers that clearly outline the evidence on which they are based”. Searchable by topic or alphabetically or by clinical topic : includes patient information, drug data, links to Cochrane and Dynamed. ‘My CKS’ allows storage of CKS content and web links. Simple, easy-to-use interface
<http://www.prodigy.nhs.uk/home>