

OUT BEHIND THE BARN DANS LE FEU DE L'ACTION

CMAJ app for iPhones

Barrie McCombs, MD,
FCFP
Calgary, Alta.

Correspondence to:
Barrie McCombs;
bmccombs@ucalgary.ca

In a recent issue of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* (*CMAJ*), I saw an advertisement for a free new software application (app). It allows CMA members to read or download the full text of *CMAJ* articles to Apple-brand mobile devices. I downloaded and tested the app on my iPad, and wanted to share my experiences with other interested physicians to hopefully save them some time and effort.

CMAJ WEBSITE

The *CMAJ* website provides information about the app and how to register for access to *CMAJ* articles at www.cmaj.ca/cmajmobile. This page is also linked in a pop-up advertisement that appears on the CMA website (cma.ca).

HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE

The app is 3.7 megabytes in size and is currently only available for Apple iPad, iPhone and iPod touch devices using the iOS 4.2 (or later) operating system. It is not yet available for BlackBerry, Android or other devices.

CMAJ REGISTRATION

You must be a CMA member to access the articles. If you do not have a cmaj.ca login, you can create one as follows:

1. Go to www.cmaj.ca/cgi/activate/basic.
2. Enter your CMA membership number and click Submit.
3. Fill out the Subscriber Information and choose a username and password. The phone and fax numbers are required fields, but you can enter a "/" or "0" instead.
4. Click Send Form. An email will be sent to you, confirming the activation.

ELDER ABUSE & ZERO RESPONSIBILITY?

I'm a senior citizen (gimme my @#\$% discount), and my older CMA membership number has only 5 digits. When the registration system did not recognize my number, I had to call CMA Membership Services to learn that we old folks now have to insert a zero at the start of the number to make it work (expletive deleted!).

DOWNLOADING THE APP

There were "App Store" icons on the *CMAJ* website that I expected to help me download the app, but they were not active links. I was able to download the app using my existing iTunes account and searching for "CMAJ."

ITUNES

Users of Apple mobile devices are told how to download this software program to their desktop or laptop computer when they first purchase the device. The program manages the connection between their computer and the mobile device. It provides access to the iTunes Store, where users can download a variety of apps (many are free) or music and video files.

INSTALLATION

I had no difficulty downloading the app to my desktop computer and then transferring ("syncing") it to my iPad. However, when I first downloaded a free app from iTunes, I was required by iTunes to provide a credit card number, even though there was no charge.

INTERNET CONNECTION

You need an active Internet connection for the mobile device to access *CMAJ*. I had no problem connecting using my wireless network at home.

INITIAL LOGIN

The app is accessed from a “CMAJ” icon on your device’s main menu. When you first use the app, you are shown a pop-up window asking for the username and password that you created during registration (see *CMAJ* Registration). Click Submit after entering the information. This pop-up window is part of the Settings tool in the app and must be closed manually using the Back, Settings and Done buttons to close all the windows. The app remembers your information and immediately connects to *CMAJ* on future visits.

GETTING HELP

To obtain help with the registration or download, call CMA Member Services at 888 855-2555 or send

an email to cma@cmaj.ca or pubsonline@cmaj.ca. At the time of writing, I could find no guide for new users built into the app or on the *CMAJ* website.

iBOOKS APP

To read articles at a later time, without Internet access, you can download articles as PDF files. You will need a PDF Reader app, such as iBooks (free from the iTunes Store), installed on the device. Downloaded articles are stored in iBooks with the long, obscure file name used on the *CMAJ* website.

FEATURES

The *CMAJ* app has the following features: “Favorites” for quick access to your favourite articles, previously viewed topic history, and incremental index searching for efficient topic access and SmartTabs for efficient navigation. These may be the subjects of a future article.

Competing interests: None declared.

Country Cardiograms

Have you encountered a challenging ECG lately?

In most issues of *CJRM* an ECG is presented and questions are asked.

On another page, the case is discussed and the answer is provided.

Please submit cases, including a copy of the ECG, to Suzanne Kingsmill,
Managing Editor, *CJRM*, 45 Overlea Blvd., P.O. Box 22015, Toronto ON M4H 1N9;
cjrm@cjrm.net

Cardiogrammes ruraux

Avez-vous eu à déchiffrer un ECG particulièrement difficile récemment?

Dans la plupart des numéros du *JCMR*, nous présentons un ECG assorti de questions.
Les réponses et une discussion du cas sont affichées sur une autre page.

Veuillez présenter les cas, accompagnés d'une copie de l'ECG, à Suzanne Kingsmill,
rédactrice administrative, *JCMR*, 45, boul. Overlea, C. P. 22015, Toronto (Ontario)
M4H 1N9 ; cjrm@cjrm.net