5MCC® 2002 (2002 Griffith’s 5-Minute Clinical Consult), Mark R. Dambro, M.D., FAAFP; Skyscape, 131 Coolidge Street, Suite 222, Hudson, MA 01749; 978.562.5555; sales@skyscape.com; http://www.skyscape.com/ES tore/ProductDetail.aspx?ProductID=251; $64.95, group discounts available; value package pricing available. System requirements: Palm OS with 4 MB; WinCE with 6.8 MB.

When five minutes can make a difference, the handheld version of the popular book, *Grif®th’s 5 Minute Clinical Consult 2002* (5MCC), provides a quick and efficient way to locate information on current medical diagnosis and treatment. An essential tool for the health care professional’s electronic black bag, it can be easily transported from the exam room or be taken on rounds. By presenting clinical information in a standardized outlined format, health care professionals can quickly retrieve information on a variety of medical disorders with the tap of a stylus. This handy reference tool is useful for primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and specialists.

The installation directions available at the Skyscape Website are designed for novices and are easy to follow. A demonstration version of 5MCC is available for download on a trial basis. This program, however, is memory intensive, consuming 3.6 MB out of 8 MB on a Palm Pilot IIIxe. Newer personal digital assistants (PDAs) with a memory expansion card are able to offload the program to memory to save space on the handheld computer.

There are more than 1,000 topics from abnormal Pap smear to Zollinger-Ellison syndrome. The content is indexed with more than 7,500 terms and medications. Information can be quickly located by using the Main Index, Medication Index, ICD-9CM Index, or Table of Contents or by typing in a topic in the Look For area (Figure 1). For example, to locate information about pulmonale, Cor, simply type “pul” in the Look For area or scroll down through the Topics list from the Main Index (Figure 2). To maximize the information on the smaller handheld screen, six vertical tabs located on the right-hand side of the screen provide easy access to information in the following areas:

- **Basics (B):** description of disorder, incidence or prevalence, signs and symptoms, risk factors (Figure 3)
- **Diagnosis (D):** differential diagnosis, laboratory findings, pathological findings, imaging, diagnostic procedures
- **Treatment (T):** appropriate health care, general and surgical measures, activity, diet, patient education
- **Medications (M):** drug or drugs of choice, contraindications, precautions, interactions, alternative drugs or therapies
- **Follow-up (F):** monitoring, prevention, complications, prognosis
- **Miscellaneous (M):** associated conditions, age-related factors, pregnancy, ICD-9, notes, Internet references

One of the main advantages of the handheld version of this popular textbook is the instant accessibility of critical medical information any time, any place. Unlike some other reference tools, Skyscape provides an icon for each textbook on the PDA screen, so opening 5MCC takes only one tap, not two or four. As a leader in providing extensive medical titles for handheld devices, Skyscape has created an easy-to-use interface. The ability to link to some of their other reference titles enables health care professionals to move back and forth efficiently from the 5MCC to the Drug Guide for Physicians to Drug Interaction Facts at the tap of the stylus.

Due to the memory required to run this software, it might be necessary to update PDA hardware to a version with an expansion memory card. On the other hand, the added flexibility of an expansion memory card will enable users to load additional programs and resources.

When seconds count, PDAs are becoming essential tools for health care professionals to help them access quality information at the point of care. The handheld version
of the 5MCC is a well-organized, up-to-date application that should be considered for the general practitioner’s electronic black bag of the twenty-first century.

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Presenter-to-Go. MARGI Systems, 3155 Kearney Street, Fremont, CA 94538; 510.657.4435; http://www.presenter-to-go.com; $199 (educational discounts available). Models available for Palm PDAs with SD slots, all Handspring Visors, and Pocket PCs with type I or type II compact flash slot or jacket. (Memory Stick version for Sony PDAs should be available by publication of this review.)

Teaching medical students, faculty, and staff about software they can run on their personal digital assistants (PDAs) can be tricky. Get more than two people in the class and the gather-around-the-PDA method just does not work. Enter Presenter-to-Go: a hardware and software kit that perfects PDA presentations.

Presenter-to-Go offers two important services. First, it allows any program running on a PDA to be projected to a screen. Want to give an ePocrates class to twenty-five medical students? Use Presenter-to-Go’s Mirror function and a projector to display it on a screen. Second, Presenter-to-Go can project PowerPoint presentations. No more lugging around that laptop! The presentation slides do not have to come from PowerPoint. They can be imported from Word, Excel, even Web pages. Basically, anything that can be printed can become a slide.

Presenter-to-Go is perfect for anyone who has tried to use the Palm Operation System Emulator (POSE) and failed or had difficulty with it. Although POSE is free, it is extremely difficult to use. The dollars spent on Presenter-to-Go are well worth the time, energy, and aspirin you will save. Another option for teaching PDA software would be to use a document camera display device. The drawback is that these devices are much more expensive than Presenter-to-Go, and the screen display is not as sharp and clear.

The Presenter-to-Go hardware plugs into the expansion slot of a PDA, be it a Springboard, SD, Compact Flash, or, by the time this review is published, Sony Memory Stick. A small cable runs from the PDA to the projector or monitor. It works with any standard VGA input HD15 connector. Presenter-to-Go even comes with a tiny remote control that works with a PDA’s infrared port. No more walking back to the laptop and bending over to advance that next slide.

The software is loaded to a PDA using the normal synchronize/installation method. Two pieces of software are installed: the Presenter, which runs the presentation slides, and the Mirror, which displays the PDA’s screen via the projector.

While nearly perfect, Presenter-to-Go does have a few drawbacks. First, the Presenter software on the PDA allows slides to be rearranged and deleted but not to be modified. Also, transitions (wipes, fades, etc.) and audio are not supported in the Presenter software. The Mirror software limits exactly what can be shown on the projected screen to what is displaying on the PDA screen. It does not display stylus strokes in the writing area or use of any of the buttons. If these aspects of the PDA are critical to instruction, like in a basic “What Is a PDA?” class, a document camera device may be more appropriate.

Presenter-to-Go is an extremely effective presentation tool to teach a large number of people about a PDA application or piece of software. It is also a wonderfully light and slick way to give a presentation. The ease of use and powerful presentation options make Presenter-to-Go well worth the price.

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JournalToGo®, HealthTec Solutions, 1884 Lackland Hill Parkway, Suite 1, St. Louis, MO 63146; 888.487.4357; support@journalto.com; http://www.journalto.com; free. System requirements: Any Palm device running PalmOS® v3.0 or higher; any PocketPC device running WinCE® v3.0 or higher (full system requirements at http://www.journalto.com/aboutjtg/req.asp).

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JournalToGo requires software installation on a Windows or Macintosh personal computer and on a PalmOS or WinCE PDA. Users configure topic subscriptions on the JournalToGo Website, and abstracts are transferred during PDA synchronization. To access abstracts on the PDA, users select a channel and are presented with an alphabetical list of journals. Abstracts are organized on the PDA by channel and
within channels by journal title (Figure 4).

Using the icons at the bottom of the screen, abstracts can be copied to the PDA text editor, emailed, or bookmarked with notes. Email functions are handled by the JournalToGo synchronization, and no email client configuration is required. Users can add notes when bookmarking abstracts. Notes and abstracts are saved on the JournalToGo Website for later access and can be edited or deleted. The email and bookmark functions are particularly handy for interlibrary loan and photocopy requests, as many citations include PubMed unique identifiers.

JournalToGo abstracts can be very helpful for physicians, pharmacists, nurses, medical students, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. They can keep up-to-date by reading abstracts during spare moments from any location. Health sciences librarians will also find JournalToGo a useful service, particularly the major medical journals channel.

JournalToGo is published by HealthTech Solutions, a Medicus Group International company and is provided as a free service to the health care community. JournalToGo does not accept any advertisements or endorsement funds. The only funding JournalToGo receives is from companies and organizations that sponsor invited channels. As of November 2002, there are 12,000 subscribers (about 95% are physicians). The technical support staff responds to requests by telephone and email in a timely manner and is very helpful. New channels and features are added to JournalToGo based on user requests.

JournalToGo is a very effective way to help keep current with therapeutic medical literature and news. It is easy to use and provides good, current information.

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OnlyMe. Tranzoa, P.O. Box 11, Maple Valley, WA 98038; 425.432.3532; onlyme_info@tranzoa.com; http://www.tranzoa.com; shareware: $9.95 registration, group licensing available. System requirements: Palm OS version 3.0 and higher.

What do you, or your staff, do when you find a resident’s note cards with patient information on them? Is this any different than finding an unsecured personal digital assistant (PDA) with patient information openly displayed? According to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) guidelines, all medical staff must maintain confidentiality of patient information, including data stored on PDAs.

OnlyMe is a third-party security product with password protection that automatically locks a Palm OS PDA whenever the PDA is turned off (Figure 5). It ensures that no one can access information on the PDA without entering a password. When the PDA is started, the program offers a password entry screen and contact information, which are configured by the user.

OnlyMe can be downloaded from www.tranzoa.com/onlyme/onlyme.htm as a trial version. This trial version allows only 120 password input usages, after which it will no longer lock the PDA. Installation follows the usual format for Palm devices and is described at www
OnlyMe locks a PDA on power-down and uses on-screen keys, graffiti, and hardware buttons for password entry, with 335,922 possible passwords. The PDA is locked for seven minutes after five failed passwords entries and an additional twenty-eight minutes after each five failed attempts. With the Fast Start feature enabled, a user can unlock the PDA quickly by entering the first character or key of the password within a two-second-timeout period.

The great advantages of this product are the ease of use and the reliable and almost unbreakable password security features. Installation is quick. After the password is entered, the PDA returns control of the PDA to the Palm OS, which displays the last application in use before powering off. OnlyMe prevents unrequested use of the PDA’s infrared port. Passwords are not echoed on the screen. Finally, OnlyMe allows password entry using gestures (sliding through multiple keys in one stroke), alleviating the need to touch the buttons individually. An additional entry of the password is also needed to configure OnlyMe, providing further security. The pdaMD Website ranks OnlyMe as one of the simplest third-party applications.

However, there are some disadvantages to OnlyMe. One is that the constant reentry of the password each time the device is powered off can be very frustrating. Busy physicians may not want to spend time entering passwords again and again. While this can be partly rectified using the Fast Start feature, security is compromised. OnlyMe does not provide encryption. Unfortunately, OnlyMe is only available for Palm OS and not for WinCE PDAs.

Security is of the utmost importance in both personal and professional use of PDAs, for both librarians and health professionals. OnlyMe is an easy-to-use security product and is recommended for use in health care settings.

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