iPad Tips and Tricks:
Useful iPad Apps for the Nurse's Aide Classroom

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1 iPad Overview

The iPad is the most well-known tablet device and its use in the educational classroom is quickly overtaking both the laptop and the traditional desktop computer systems. Being lightweight like a small book, having touch controls, and also having WiFi/cellular internet access; makes any tablet ideal for a student or even a busy working professional.

2 iPad Hardware

2.1 The iPad Unit

The iPad comes in four models: iPad1, iPad2, iPad3 and iPad Retina. Plus the iPad mini which is actually a smaller version of the iPad2. All models have a single push button, on/off switch, headphone jack and volume rocker. Models past the iPad1 have a built-in digital still and video camera. The units have sensors so can be used in portrait or landscape modes along with sensors for GeoLocation and Bluetooth. Most models come with a larger 30 pin connector in order to dock with a PC or MAC for charging/communication while the iPad Retina comes with a smaller Lightning-style connector for the same purpose. Data coming into the iPad has to come via the connector or from an Application like iTunes or Dropbox for use on the system which can be considered one of the more difficult parts to work with when dealing with an iPad.

2.2   iPad Connections

There are two main problems with using iPads in the classroom: 1.) Getting the data to the iPad and 2.) Connecting the iPad to an overhead projector system. Let's look at the last one first.

To connect the iPad to a traditional projector, you will need a specialized connector that will convert the output of the iPad unit into being a standard style PC-connection for the projector. These connector are still kind of expensive ($50 - range) but are easy to use.

If you have an Apple TV unit, you can also just double-tap the controls on the iPad and use the AirPlay feature to transmit whatever is showing on the iPad to the Apple TV unit which can show the result via an HDMI cable in high definition. Both your iPad system and the Apple TV unit have to be on the same WiFi system and the WiFi system has to not block this style of communication for this type of connection to work. But when it does work, you can travel throughout the classroom transmitting the output of your iPad to the projector which makes it so that you can have a more interactive class.

Getting information to and from an iPad is a little tricky. You can use the connector if you are docked to a PC/Mac unit but I usually find that e-mail, iTunes or Dropbox mostly do the

trick for me. Also you eventually figure out that most applications already have a built-in tool for communication in order to move information to and from the iPad.

3   Useful iPad Apps

The iPad comes with a lot of built-in applications and there are a huge number of Apps that you can download most of which are free or cost less then $10.

When I look at classroom apps, I normally divide them up between Learning Apps, Teaching Apps and Professional Apps so that is the kind of approach that I will take here. All Apps should be available through the iPad App Store App.

Consider the word "free" to be in quotes for all listed Apps. Sometimes "free" includes advertising and some times it leads to a small payment for bigger, better or continued use of the App. Also some "free" Apps require registration before use so they can communicate with you and send you advertising via e-mail.

4   Learner Apps

Here is a quick list of my favorite Learning Apps that we will quickly overview in class and discuss:

- **Calculator Pro** - nice quick calculator (free and $0.99)

- **EasyBib** - great citation tool (free)

- **Dropbox** - cloud service to have files available on a variety of devices that all share the same space (free for a goodly amount of space). I have found this one as an instructor to be invaluable.

- **Evernote** - stay organized across devices (free)

- **GoodReader** - Superior PDF reader for the iPad ($4.99)

- **Khan Academy** - short learning modules using a virtual whiteboard and a voiceover in the subject areas of: math, stats, biology, chemisty, physics, humanities, finance and history (free)

- **Keynote** - iPad presentation tool ($9.99)

- **Pages** - iPad word processor ($9.99)

- **neuAnnotate** - annotate text in a variety of ways including highlighting, drawings, photos and notes ($1.99)

- **Penultimate** - handwriting App for the iPad ($0.99)

- **Side by Side** - multi-window reader/browser (free to $1.99)

- **Puffin** - web browser that allows you to see Flash on an iPad (free to $0.99)

5   Teaching Apps

Here are some Teaching Apps that I have found really useful for presenting in the classroom and organizing schoolwork:

- **Coach's Eye** - allows a coach to record and break down a movement or an action ($4.99)

- **Doodle** - connects to the Doodle scheduling service for help in finding the right date to meet ($2.99)

- **Dragon Dictation** - voice recognition (free to start)

- **Educreations** - makes iPad into a recordable white board (free)

- **Names in a Hat** - pick a name randomly ($0.99)

- **Panopto** - viewer for Panopto lecture capture tool (free)

- **Garageband** - turns iPad into a collection of touch instruments; also can use the iPad built-in microphone for recording and then edit the result ($4.99)

- **Poll Everywhere** - Online polling (free for audiences of 40 or less)

- **Show Me** - Create and share lessons on the iPad (free)

- **Vimeo** - watch Vimeo videos (free)

- **Voicethread** - create and share dynamic conversations around documents and snapshots where iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Mac or PC users can join the conversation (free)

One of the things that I do now is to use the camera on the iPad and take a picture of my whiteboard at the end of a class where I have heavily used the whiteboard and then upload after class that picture to the class web site.

6   Medical or Medical Professional Apps

Most of these are free or at a low cost and come recommended by medical web sites:

- **Timer** - simple timer (free)

- **ReachMD** and Doctor Radio - ReachMD (Medical Radio and CME iPhone Apps) and Doctor Radio (**SiriusXM iPad App** (paid))- audio medical information and programs; ReachMD is specifically for medical professionals while Doctor Radio is aimed more at the general public.

- **Medscape (WebMD)** - general medical resource from WebMD (free)

- **MicroMedex Drug Information** - drug information; nice resource (free)

- **ICD 10 Lite 2013** - 2012 ICD10-CM diagnosis codes (free to paid)

- **Calculate by QxMD** - medical calulator and decision support tool (free)

- **AHRQ ePSS for iPad** - research on health care, quality, costs, outcomes and patient safety (free)

- **Draw MD (series)** - medical images that you can draw on with your iPad in categories like General Surgery, Orthopedics, Cardiology. . . (free)

- **Radiology 2.0: One Night in the ED** - series of educational cases in radiology (free)

- **MedPage Today Mobile** - medical news (free - appears in the Newsstand)

- **ilarynx** - 3D airway simulator and 2012 SOAP (Society of Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology) Best in Education Award (free for the moment)

- **inMotion 3D** - fully interactive 3d musculoskeletal model (free)

- **Cancer.net Mobile** - accurate oncologist-approved cancer information (free)

- **iTriage** - input symptons or some general questions and search for health answers (free)

- **Lexicomp** - fast, reliable answers to medical questions (free but need to register and leads to a subscription)

- **Omnio** - medical must-haves one step away (free)

- **Skyscape Medical Resources** - access to medical resources (free)

7 References for the Apps

My main sources for new Learning Apps are **Apps for Learning on the Go** by Julie Mersiowsky of Germanna Community College and Joan Osborne of Northern Virgina Community college.

Plus the top medical or medical professional Apps (free or otherwise) listed from a variety of online healthcare resources including iMedicalApps.com, Mr. HealthcareCIO, XChange, and IOSnoops; along with recommendations from the Apps for Healthcare Professionals area of the App Store (look under the Health category).