



(<https://www.healthonnet.org>), a non-governmental organization devoted to identifying reliable sources of health information. “Such evaluations can help filter out useful and reliable apps from app stores,” Yap said.

The quality assessment tool that the Singapore group developed asks a series of questions about many aspects of each app, ranging from how well each does the job it was created to do to how reliable or unbiased it is--which includes whether the app states the source of funding or conflicts of interest. One section also evaluates the apps’ design, (eg, such as how intuitive it is to use, whether the design is well organized, and if the type is of a readable size). Each answer is scored with a 0, 1, or 2.

“We hope this tool is a more objective means for clinicians and reviewers to assess the quality of medical apps that are available before they use them in their practice settings or recommend them to patients,” Yap said. Potential developers of health care apps can also use this tool as a guide to create apps of a better quality standard for appropriate use in the health care setting.”

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