school or lay provider may find the 15 different sections useful as a broad overview of mental illnesses common to teens.

In summary, this text would be useful for professionals, not necessarily medical, who work with adolescents. It is well organized and thorough in content, but most of the information would not be new to a provider already working in a medical field. Parents of teens may find it helpful as well, and it could be a useful addition to your patient library. Residents and medical students with limited background in this area may find its easy readability and focus on help for parents and school professionals important to their fundamental knowledge about teen mental health.

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iPhone App for The Color Atlas of Family Medicine

Richard Usatine, Mindy Smith, E.J. Mayeux Jr, Heidi Chumley, James Tysinger; programmed by Peter Erickson
McGraw Hill Medical iPhone app by Usatine Media LLC, book published 2009, iPhone app published 2010, $94.99.

This exciting new iPhone app offers a new way to access information and pictures, both for patient care and training. I downloaded the app easily from the website, and it synced with my iPhone. I use it frequently, both in direct patient care and when working with residents and students. I recommend it for anyone involved with clinical care in family medicine.

The quality of the pictures in the atlas on the iPhone are consistent with the high quality of all Mac graphics; you can easily enlarge the picture to fill the screen the same way you can change the size of any Mac screen. Even when enlarged the photo quality is excellent.

The level of writing or text for each “chapter” is clear and easily understood by physicians at all levels of experience. Each section/subject includes a graphic, which might be an X ray, a sonogram, a device, or a picture of a specific clinical finding. Each section also includes a clinical case and information about epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis and management, patient education and resources, and up-to-date relevant references.

The “book” is well organized into “chapters” by organ system and also includes chapters on important topics like “physical and sexual abuse.” The chapter titled “The Essence of Family Medicine” includes sections on patient-physician relationship, family planning, end of life care, and social justice. (One down-side: I did not know those topics were included in this section until I used the index to locate information on family planning. But of course once I found it, it is easy to navigate to that section when I need it.)

The index is searchable by topic, using the standard iPhone layout with the alphabet running down the right margin, giving users the ability to search the index alphabetically. There is also an excellent search function, which is “hidden” under the name “text” in the menu bar at the bottom of the page, but once you have found it you will remember it is there; typing in the diagnosis or problem quickly gives you pictures and information for that search topic (a real plus of a computer-based book).

The only limitation, for the moment, is that the app is only available for the iPhone. The author has assured me that a similar app for the droid platform is under development and should be available in April of 2012. For now, droid users will have to borrow the “book” from their colleagues with iPhones. By the time of the publication of this review, a new enhanced platform for the app will be released and available to new subscribers.

The price is high for an app. The author is working to get it lower, but the publishers determine this. The list price for the text is $99.95, and the current available price on Amazon.com is $79.99. Readers and viewers will decide for themselves which format is most useful for the work they do, but overall these costs are comparable.

In summary, this app is fun and easy to use and relevant in both clinical and teaching settings. It is convenient since it lives on the phone and doesn’t require an Internet connection to use once it has been downloaded. Patients and learners, as well as friends, are impressed with the quality of the pictures and how easy it is to find information. I commend the authors and the programmer on an excellent product. I think it is in important addition to everyone’s virtual “bookshelf.”

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