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**Pedi-Anesth mobile phone app to help children’s anesthesiologists worldwide**

Pediatric anesthesiologist, Dr Jerrold Lerman, from Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo along with his two colleagues, Dr. Charles Coté at Harvard University and Dr. Brian Anderson at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, have swapped operating room scrubs for the high-tech world of app development with the creation of an app for pediatric anesthesia, pediatric critical care and emergency medicine that bears Starship Children’s Hospital logo. The new “Pedi-Anesth” app by Starship is now available at the Apple app store and is also available on the Android platform. To download the app, enter “Pedi-Anesth” at the Apple store or type the URL:

<https://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/pedi-anesth/id1019040157?mt=8>

The app is free for 3 days after which you can keep just the Reference card or buy the full interactive app. The app (this download is for Apple platforms) is a mobile phone supplement to their textbook, *A Practice of Anesthesia for Infants and Children*, which Prof Lerman, Coté and Anderson edit.

Prof Lerman said they developed the app because they realized that doctors needed a functional, interactive repository of key information including critical care drug doses immediately on hand, preferring to shed the hefty textbooks to manage children wherever we practice globally.

The textbook features a handy card of drug doses that clinicians can carry around with them in their pockets, but residents and junior doctors told us they wanted something more than a card, an interactive, comprehensive resource that is globally available to all for a small fee. Today, everyone has a mobile phone so it seemed imminently reasonable to adapt it to an app format and turn it into an interactive app. Adapting the material to the new medium was a challenge. One of Dr. Lerman’s relatives is a computer whiz who writes and develops apps. He and his colleague meticulously translated the medical information into ‘geek speak’. We’re pleased with the outcome and it will give healthcare providers easy access to necessary information when they’re in the operating room, intensive care unit or emergency department.

One of its key functions is to calculate drug doses for infants and children, as well as to provide details about emergency situations, critical care medications, the management of difficult cases, and specifics for anesthesia for children with heart problems. All that is required is for the user to enter the child’s weight or age and drug and equipment calculations are immediately performed. “There are other apps out there, but we believe ours is exceedingly easy to navigate, interactive and provides far more information than others. It is not just a drug dose calculator – it provides much more background information,” says Dr. Lerman.

Feedback on app on the Android platform (which has been available for approximately one year) has been positive and comments on the Google Play store include, “Best app for ER, PICU and pediatricians”; “Fantastic resource! This is an amazing resource”; and “Very user friendly. Would be great help to the Anesthesiologist.”

We are particularly proud that the app bears Starship Children’s Hospital’s name as the institution with which the app is now inextricably linked. As my colleague, Professor Brian Anderson said: “It’s got the Starship name on it, so the name of our little hospital (in Auckland, New Zealand) will be seen around the world. I’m really proud of that. It’s like the All Blacks, we’re a tiny little country, but there are some things we do really well and hopefully this is one of them”. Auckland DHB chief executive, Ailsa Claire, says it’s fantastic to have Starship’s name associated with such an innovative development. “This is the way of the future and it’s exciting to know that anesthesiologists around the world will be accessing comprehensive and up-to-date information via the Starship app. We’re very honored to see Starship’s name associated with this development,” she says.

The app will be updated periodically and is now available on the Apple App store as well as the Google Play store for both platforms.

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