

# ACOG app and applets: Tools to augment your practice

Useful information at your fingertips

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The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) is a non-profit organization of women's health care physicians advocating the highest standards of practice, continuing member education, and public awareness of women's health care issues.<sup>1</sup> The organization has long recognized the impact that social media and mobile technology would have for itself as well as its membership. ACOG published a Social Media Guide in 2012, featuring a section on how to use apps in ObGyn practice and provided a list of apps for ObGyns and their patients.<sup>2</sup>

ACOG introduced its own app 4 years ago and has since updated the app several times, most recently on December 6, 2017. The ACOG app has a useful search function, a home button, and a place for users to email feedback (TABLE 1, page 42). The app most importantly contains several applets (small applications designed to perform a specific function within the main application). These applets encompass 3 types of apps for health care providers: clinical decision-making

apps (Practice Bulletins, Committee Opinions, an Estimated Due Date Calculator that was featured in a prior review,<sup>3</sup> Indicated Delivery, and Immunize) (TABLE 2, page 42), reference and information gathering apps (Today's Headlines), and member support apps (ACOG Contacts, Careers, Annual Meeting, Districts, Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology [CREOG], and Website).<sup>4</sup>

This review will focus on the main ACOG app, which is evaluated by a shortened version of the APPLICATIONS scoring system, APPLI (app comprehensiveness, price, platform, literature use, and important special features).<sup>5</sup> In addition, the clinical decision-making applets will be highlighted in a second table. I commend ACOG for developing these useful tools to augment their members' practices. Of note, for the Practice Bulletins and Indicated Delivery applets, users will need to input their ACOG log-in access information. ●

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## References






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**TABLE 1 The ACOG app**

App	App comprehensiveness	Price	Platform	Literature used	Important special features
 <p><b>ACOG</b></p> <p>iTunes:  <a href="https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/acog/id616323665?mt=8">https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/acog/id616323665?mt=8</a></p> <p>Google Play:  <a href="https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=vspringboard.acog.activity">https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=vspringboard.acog.activity</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clinical decision-making (clinical decision support systems, clinical treatment guidelines, medical calculators)</li> <li>Communication and consulting (e-mail)</li> <li>Reference and information gathering (medical news)</li> <li>Continuing medical education</li> </ul>	Free (a few applets require ACOG log-in)	iTunes and Google Play store	Practice bulletins, committee opinions, and other primary sources	See specific applet descriptions in Table 2

**TABLE 2 The ACOG applets**

Applet	App type	ACOG log-in required	Literature used	Important special features
 <p><b>Practice Bulletins</b></p>	Clinical decision-making (clinical treatment guidelines)	Yes	Primary sources	Updates on techniques and clinical management issues
 <p><b>Committee Opinions</b></p>	Clinical decision-making (clinical treatment guidelines)	No	Primary sources	ACOG committee's assessment of emerging issues in ObGyn practice
 <p><b>EDD Calculator</b></p>	Clinical decision-making (medical calculators)	No	ACOG Committee Opinion No. 700	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses data from last menstrual period and first accurate ultrasound to determine estimated due date (EDD)</li> <li>Determines both estimated gestational age (EGA) for a target date and target date for a gestational age</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Indicated Delivery</b></p>	<p>Clinical decision-making (clinical decision support systems)</p> <p>Communication and consulting (e-mail)</p>	Yes	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides members with suggestions related to the timing of delivery based on selected conditions, the patient's EDD/EGA, and ACOG's clinical guidance</li> <li>Allows members to e-mail or print results for use in counseling patients and or document in patient's record</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Immunize</b></p>	Clinical decision-making (clinical treatment guidelines)	No	National organizations	Interactive tool that provides immunization best practices / recommendations / algorithms