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National survey of mobile learning in Canadian pediatric residency

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Purpose: Examine the attitudes, experiences and usage of mobile technology for learning by Canadian pediatric residents. **Methods:** A bilingual web based survey was distributed via email to program directors and residents of all Canadian pediatric residency training programs. Survey items were constructed based on a review of the literature and included: residents' use of mobile devices; residents' interest in mobile technologies as they apply to education; and perspectives towards a pediatric mobile learning platform. Study was approved by the Health Research Ethics Board (HREB) and the Canadian Pediatric Program Directors research group (CPPD-RG). **Results:** One hundred and thirty six residents (N=136) from all 17 programs and from all levels of training responded; a response rate of 19.84%. Majority of residents (97.6%) owned handheld devices with internet capabilities, and the second most common activity was accessing educational materials to learn about pediatrics (91.9%), after email services (98.4%). Seven main mobile applications were identified by the residents for pediatric learning (e.g., UpToDate, Pedi STAT, and Lexicomp), and 62.1% reported discontinuing mobile application use at some point with the most common reason being financially related (i.e. loss of free access). Majority of residents (85.4%) felt that a designated educational mobile application for pediatric residency would be helpful. **Conclusion:** Mobile learning is growing across many areas of higher education, and most residents already use some type of mobile-learning application. A designated and freely accessed mobile learning platform for pediatric residents that could be used as an asynchronous learning tool could enhance residents' learning experience and performance. In addition, it could act as a reliable tool to combine multiple resources.