

Evidence for Using Mobile Health Applications in Behavioral Health Care

Evidence from recent systematic reviews indicates that mHealth apps may be a promising method to support patient self-management of diverse health conditions, ranging from diabetes to depression. Behavioral health care has been a key area for mHealth integration, resulting in more robust evidence for the use of mHealth with these conditions. In addition to patient self-management, evidence also suggests that the use of mHealth apps increases treatment compliance and could potentially reduce health care treatment costs.

Substance Use Disorders

✓ mHealth apps may support abstinence while trying to reduce tobacco use and recovery from alcohol use disorders following residential treatment (<u>Meredith, Alessi, & Petry, 2015</u>; <u>Haskins, Lesperance, Gibbons, & Bourdeaux, 2017</u>).



Anxiety Disorders

- ✓ mHealth apps can be used to self-monitor symptoms related to generalized anxiety disorder (GAD), panic disorders, and stress (Loo Gee, Griffiths, & Gulliver, 2016).
- ✓ mHealth Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT) based apps may be beneficial to individuals looking to manage anxiety symptoms (Wright, Mishkind, Eells, & Chan, 2019).



Depressive Disorders

- ✓ Individuals with mild depression who used a CBT-based mHealth app for self-management of their symptoms reported a significant reduction in depression symptoms compared with those who did not (<u>Wright et al.</u>, <u>2019</u>).
- ✓ mHealth app use to address depression symptoms has been correlated with significant improvements (<u>Bush</u>, <u>Armstrong</u>, <u>& Hoyt</u>, 2019).
- ✓ mHealth apps may significantly increase one's ability to tolerate negative emotions and self-efficacy as well as reduce negative thoughts about self and psychological distress (Melia et al., 2020).



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Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD)

- ✓ mHealth apps can be used to assess PTSD symptoms using a validated measure called the PTSD Check List (PCL) (Wickersham, Petrides, Williamson, & Leightley, 2019).
- ✓ Veterans experiencing high levels of PTSD who used a mHealth app reported significant improvement in their PTSD symptoms (<u>Wickersham et al., 2019</u>).
- ✓ After a brief training on the app, using PTSD coach as a self-management tool can help veterans reduce their PTSD symptoms (<u>Gould et al., 2019</u>).

遺 Adherence

- ✓ mHealth apps that include a reminder feature for medications or medical appointments have shown to improve patients' compliance with their treatment (<u>Bush et al., 2019</u>; <u>Rathbone et al., 2017</u>).
- Reductions in missed appointments could translate to increased clinic productivity and possible costsavings (<u>Bush et al., 2019</u>).
- Patients who used mHealth apps with reminder functions improved medication adherence and reduced the number of missed appointments (<u>Rathbone et al., 2017</u>).



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