

# “Steth-O-Cope”

A smartphone application to support interns,  
developed using evidence, iteration and  
collaboration.



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# Rationale

- Interns often the first doctors called to manage an acutely unwell patient.
- Consistently shown that that interns feel under-prepared and lack the skills necessary in caring for these patients.
- Smartphones used by the majority of interns on a daily basis in order to perform their job.



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# Rationale



- Initial exploration revealed interns lacked a structured approach to the planning, management and follow-up of many ward calls.
- Protocols and checklists can be useful tools that facilitate decision making and communication.





# Steth-o-cope

No need to panic when you get a challenging ward call. Steth-o-cope is here to help.

START



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# Methods

- Interns surveyed regarding ward calls
  - Frequency
  - Difficulty
- Review cycles and collation of feedback used before final sign off on content by senior clinician experts.

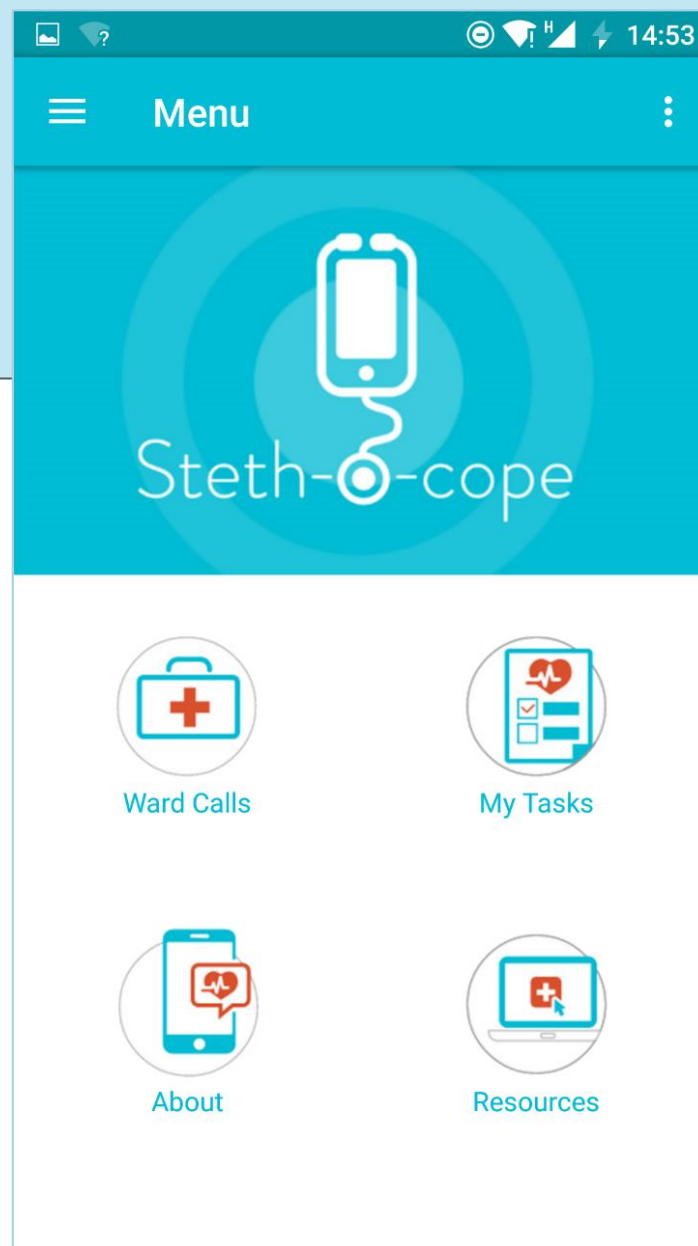


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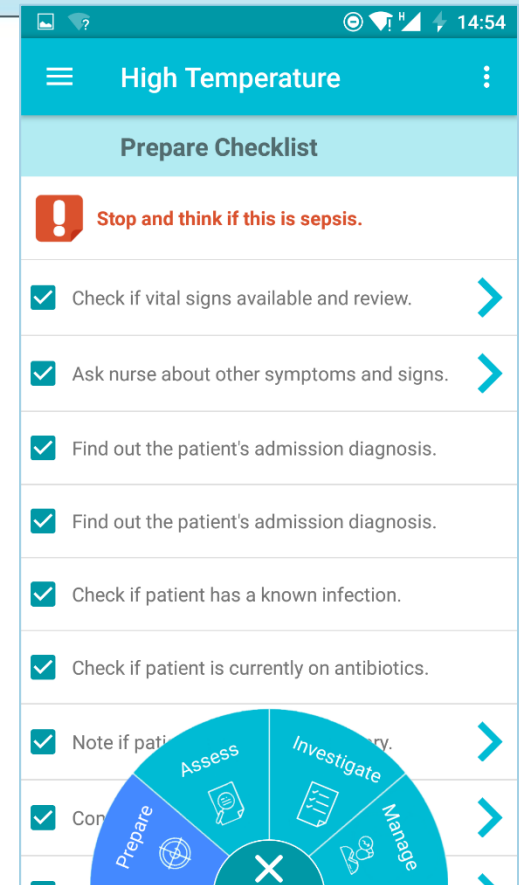
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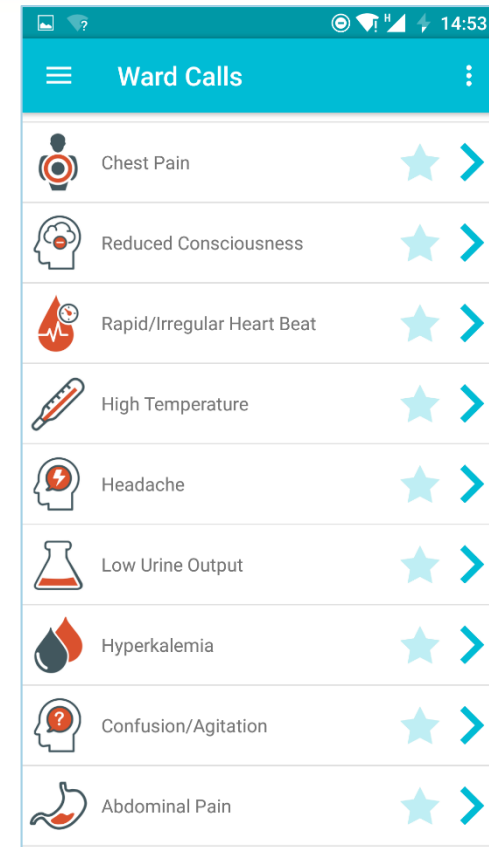
# Methods

- A collaboration of interns, NCHDs and educationalists formulated a standard approach to acute care ward calls: *Prepare, Assess, Investigate, and Manage*.



# Findings

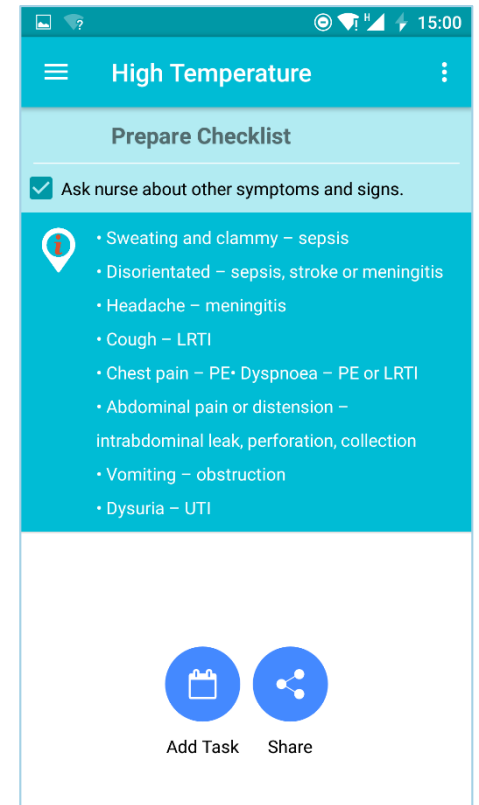
- The Steth-O-Cope application alpha version was built with 14 initial ward calls covering topics such as high temperature, abdominal pain, fast heart rate, shortness of breath and revised following review.





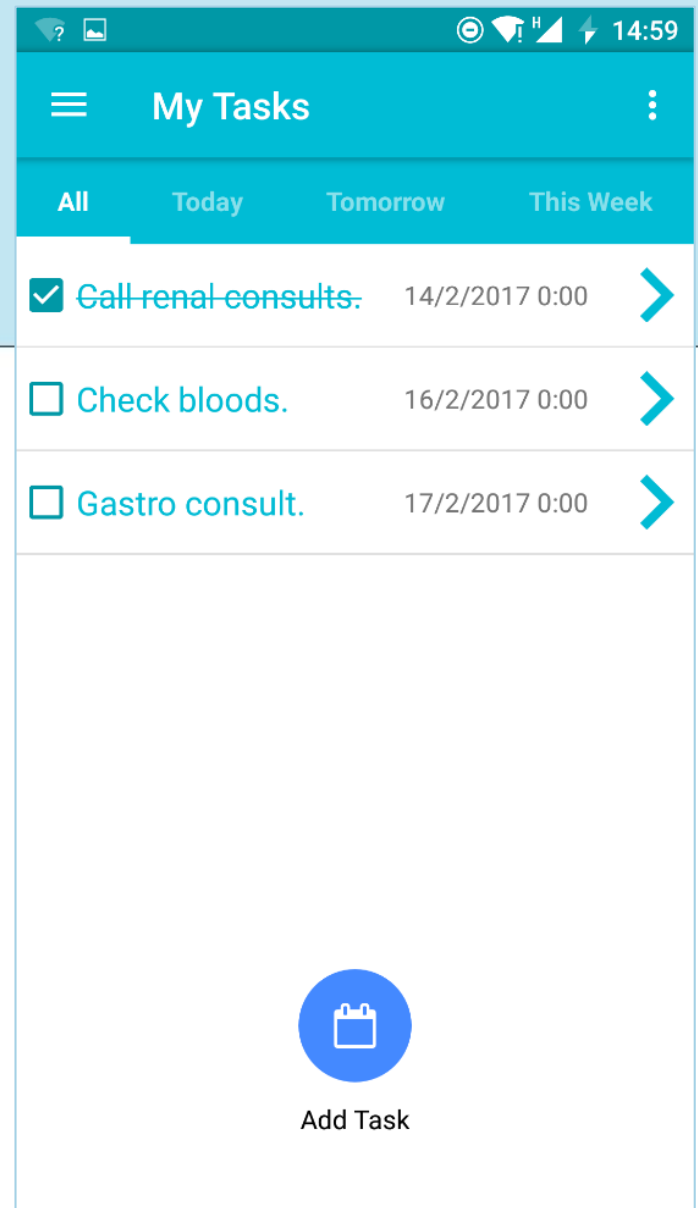
# Findings

Additional evidence-based practice protocols and guidelines were sourced to support each topic.





Beta version developed with additional functionality such as task creation and reminder setting.



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# User testing

- Very positive response
- Helpful feedback on usability

*“I would use Steth-o-cope when I get the call to use it to prepare.”*

*“... It would also be useful after to check if you’d missed anything.”*

*“...It gives you a bit more structure.”*

*“... It’s good if you’re on nights and really tired and just want to check you haven’t forgotten anything.”*

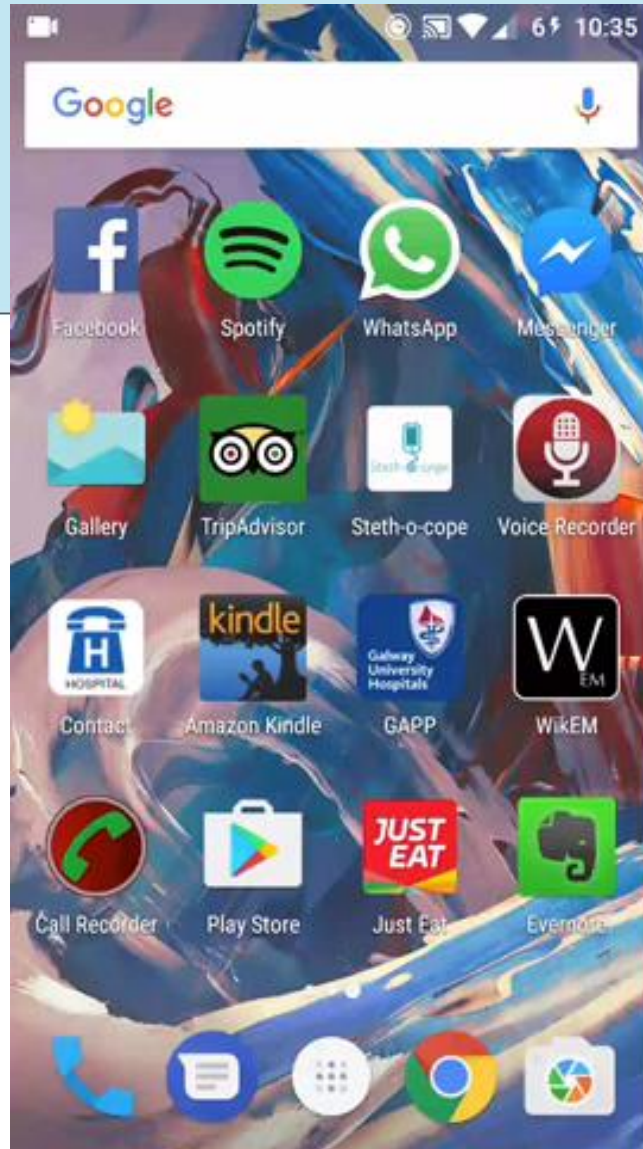


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The gold version will be developed for Android and available on Google play store in March 2017.



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# Conclusions

- The adoption of an evidence based, iterative and collaborative approach to the development of Steth-O-Cope is one of the strengths of this application.
- The mixed methods study design, informing the content was critical to addressing intern needs.
- User ratings and feedback will be collated using Google Analytics post release.



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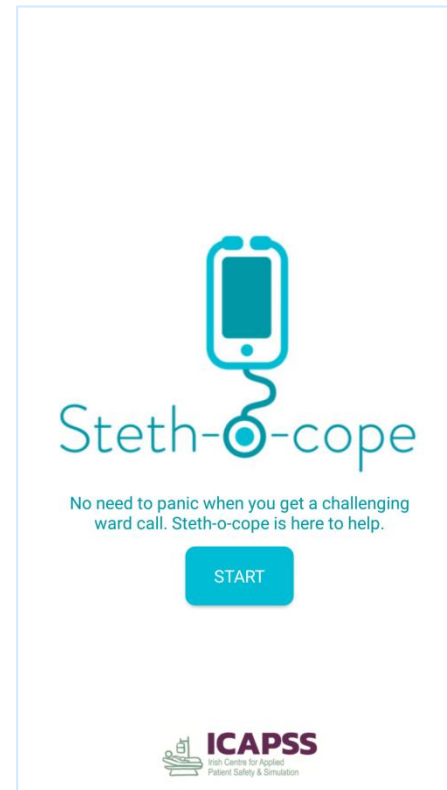
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# With thanks

- NDTP
- Dr Lyle McVicker
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