



# Using Public App Stores and Apps

## Overview

Public App Stores are available on mobile devices for providers and staff participating in VA's Mobile Health Provider Program and other VA Mobile programs. Commercial mobile apps downloaded from Public App Stores can enhance the way care is delivered by expanding the functionality of the mobile device and assist with other IT and administrative functions. For example, commercial mobile apps can provide:

- Convenient access to real-time information
- Easy access to medical tools
- Increased patient education opportunities

## Public App Stores vs. VA App Catalog

Before you download an app, think about how you will be using the app. **If you are using this app to access or receive VA or patient information, the app must be downloaded through the VA App Catalog.** Apps available on the VA App Catalog have passed extensive security reviews and have been deemed safe for use with sensitive data. All VA Rules of Behavior (ROB) must be followed when downloading, installing, and utilizing any App from a Public App Store. Remember, you have a responsibility to protect privacy and ensure information security!

### Rule of Thumb for Public Apps

If the app that you want to download does **not** receive or access any information related to VA, then you can download it through a Public App Store.

## Public App Store Privacy and Security Training

To use and download commercial apps through Public App Stores, you must participate in a mandatory training session available through the MyVeHU Campus. You must be enrolled in the MyVeHU Campus to access the training. Visit [www.myvehucampus.com](http://www.myvehucampus.com) and click the ENROLL icon at the bottom of the page. Once you are enrolled, go to the "On Demand" section of the site, and search for "Protecting Privacy and Security While Using Apps from the Public App Store" – or search for session code: #14138. The My VeHU Campus Session is streamed directly to your desktop or mobile device and available 24/7/365.

For more information, visit [www.mobilehealth.va.gov/providers](http://www.mobilehealth.va.gov/providers).