Background: Smartphone and tablet apps are an important tool for infectious disease physicians, hospital epidemiologists, and infection preventivists. However, discovering and evaluating infectious disease-related apps is difficult. The app store changes too quickly for manual systematic review of apps by experts to be practical, and we are not aware of any regularly-updated, high-quality resources listing relevant apps.

Methods: We have created a searchable database of all apps in the Apple App Store, where iPhone and iPad apps are sold. By searching this database with a pre-programmed query, we systematically generated a list of infectious disease-related apps sorted by relevance. This list of apps was then manually curated to remove any irrelevant apps.

The curated app list is automatically and systematized each month to include new apps, and is then published on a public website: http://idapps.org. It is searchable and allows physicians, nurses, and other domain experts to post their own reviews of listed apps.

Results: Out of more than 1.3 million apps in the Apple App Store, our query identified 2,436 apps sorted by relevance. 12 out of 19 infectious disease-specific apps available in the App Store and previously identified by Moodley et al. were listed in the top 200 results from our database. In the top 30 results, 1 was not in English and was manually removed. The top 3 apps included CDC Antibiotic Guidelines, Infections (antimicrobial prescribing guidelines), and Current Opinion in Infectious Diseases.

Conclusions: We created a list of infectious disease apps for physicians that will be kept up-to-date through an automatic process. This service will allow physicians to more easily find phone and tablet apps related to infectious diseases.