



Photo courtesy of Bath Chronicle

iPhone app is a life-saver

An iPhone application which could save the lives of people suffering heart attacks has been invented by RUH consultant Dr Daniel Low.

The free iResus app gives on-screen, step-by-step guidance to resuscitation in emergencies. It was downloaded 2,500 times on its launch in January and has since been downloaded at a rate of 1,200 per week.

Developed by Dr Low, consultant anaesthetist, the app asks users a series of questions about the patient and provides instructions on giving chest compressions and clearing a person's airways.

Dr Low's invention was inspired by working alongside ex-military, air ambulance helicopter pilots. He saw that during in-flight emergencies, these highly trained airmen would refer to instruction

cards which guided them through the crisis and helped to reduce the margin for human error. Dr Low realised that a similar system could also assist medics when they are faced with a cardiac arrest.

He said: "Even though doctors and nurses are trained to deal with someone having a cardiac arrest, it's not a situation they face every day. I thought both medics and patients would benefit from an application such as this."

Dr Low developed the app with an expert in computer software design and has produced two versions - one for medics and one for members of the public who have a basic training in first aid. The app was produced in collaboration with

the Resuscitation Council (UK) – the nationally recognised organisation which produces resuscitation guidelines for healthcare professionals and first aiders.

Dr Jerry Nolan, also a consultant anaesthetist at the RUH and former chairman of the Resuscitation Council (UK), says it's an invaluable tool. "Lots of people now have smart phones and to be able to have a device like this, which is constantly updated, accessible within seconds and which automatically replaces old guidelines with new, is fantastic. Daniel's work with the Resuscitation Council shows how medicine and patient care is embracing day to day technology to maximum effect."