

Evaluating Medical Information Resources

Likelihood of use =

Relevance x Validity x Accessibility x Ease of Use
Cost x Time

EBM process employed:

- Transparency: Are the methods used to review and incorporate evidence explicit? When updated, is it clear what has been reviewed and/or changed? Do they include their references?
- EBM Principals: Do the principals of evidence-based medicine drive the review process (acquiring and appraising)? Do they rate the levels of evidence?
- Recommendations: Do they provide actionable recommendations and rate the strength of the recommendation?
- Updated: Is there a process for assuring the information is updated in a timely fashion? Is that process explicit?
- Perspective/Bias: Is the perspective/bias of the organization similar to your own?

Ease of Use

- Ease of Access: How difficult is it to gain access and log on to the site? How much does it cost? Are you limited in where you can access the site? Is there a handheld version available?
- User Interface: Is the site intuitive? Does it fit your style of information searching (browsing/searching/clicking/dragging, etc.)? Is the learning curve appropriate to the potential benefit?
- Technical Reliability: Does it look the same each time you return? If not, are the differences functional improvements? Is it accessible 365/24/7?
- Search Engine: Does the search engine allow you to customize your search effectively?

Content:

- Useful Answers: Do the answers provide specific actionable clinical decisions? Do they provide appropriate applicability information?
- Validity: Is the information correct? How does the information compare to answers found in other trusted resources?
- Reliability: Does the site provide similar answers when looking in different ways?
- Depth of Content: Is the depth of content appropriate for the purpose you are using the site? Is there enough supporting evidence to convince you to follow the recommendation?
- Breadth of Content: How often are you able to find answers for questions that arise in your clinical practice? Do you get frustrated with the site because it never has what you are looking for?
- Linked and connected: Is the site linked to or from other trusted information sources? Are the references linked to PubMed?