

HANDOUT #3

ASSESSING THE EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF A WEB SITE

First decide how to screen for and locate a web site

1. Who will be using the website? (resident, nurse, patient?)
2. What type of information is needed? (clinical, research?)
3. How will you look for a web site? (general search engine like www.google.com, or a database like PubMed?)
4. Do you have a tool for appraising the quality of the site?

Then ask the following screening questions to rate the quality (a yes implies better quality)

	Yes	No
1. Is the site put together by a known institution or organization? (clue from the last few letters, e.g. 'gov' represents a government site, 'edu' a University)		
2. Are the objectives of the site clearly educational? (are they advertising or selling products? Patient education? Information about services?)		
3. Are there sections that explain the various goals? (for e.g. a patient section and a research section, for a hospital site)		
4. Is there a search engine for the site itself, to locate information?		

Then rank the quality of the site by giving a score from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) in the categories below:

		1	2	3	4	5
1.	Responsive (that is, quick connections)					
2.	Goals are clear					
3.	Distinguishes fact from opinion					
4.	Current (look for the date the site was last updated)					
5.	Visual Impact					
6.	Easy to find information					
7.	Connects to useful sites					
8.	Addresses at least 50% of your learner's needs					
9.	Provides justification for opinions or views (gives evidence)					
10.	Allows communication with a web master or a consultant					