Aim

This bulletin is designed to help healthcare library staff deliver Knowledge for Healthcare by keeping us up-to-date with the knowledge needs, preferences and behaviours of healthcare staff, students, patients and the public.

Sources scanned

Sources scanned include ALIA, BNI, CILIP weekly news and Update, CINAHL, Embase, Emerald Insight, ERIC, Google Scholar, HLG news, HMIC, Knowledge for Healthcare Blog, LISA, Medline, MLA news, NICE Information Services Bulletin and PubMed.

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If you have suggestions for improving the bulletin, please contact Lisa and Mary.

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Healthcare Workforce

Assessment of knowledge and skills in information literacy instruction for rehabilitation sciences students: a scoping review

Source: Journal of the Medical Library Association

Publication Date: Jan 2018

Background: Objective: This scoping review investigates how knowledge and skills are assessed in the information literacy (IL) instruction for students in physical therapy, occupational therapy, or speech-language pathology, regardless of whether the instruction was given by a librarian. The objectives were to discover what assessment measures were used, determine whether these assessment methods were tested for reliability and validity, and provide librarians with guidance on assessment methods to use in their instruction in evidence-based practice contexts.

Methods: A scoping review methodology was used. A systematic search strategy was run in Ovid MEDLINE and adapted for CINAHL; EMBASE; Education Resources Information Center (ERIC) (EBSCO); Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA); Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts (LISTA); and Proquest Theses and Dissertations from 1990 to January 16, 2017. Forty articles were included for data extraction.

Results: Three major themes emerged: types of measures used, type and context of librarian involvement, and skills and outcomes described. Thirty-four measures of attitude and thirty-seven measures of performance were identified. Course products were the most commonly used type of performance measure. Librarians were involved in almost half the studies, most frequently as instructor, but also as author or assessor. Information literacy skills such as question formulation and database searching were described in studies that did not involve a librarian.

Conclusion: Librarians involved in instructional assessment can use rubrics such as the Valid Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education (VALUE) when grading assignments to improve the measurement of knowledge and skills in course-integrated IL instruction. The adapted Fresno test could be modified to better suit the real-life application of IL knowledge and skills.

Read the full article here

The effectiveness of online pain resources for health professionals: a systematic review with subset meta-analysis of educational intervention studies.

Source: Pain

Publication Date: Jan 2018
Background: Online educational interventions are increasingly developed for health professionals and students, although graduate and undergraduate medical curricular often contain limited information about how to assess and manage pain. This study reviews the literature on the effectiveness of pain-related online educational resources. Studies were identified via a search of Medline, PsychINFO, Web of Science, CINAHL, PubMed, Scopus, Cochrane Library, Google Scholar and OpenGrey databases. Search terms included three concept blocks: (i) type of intervention - online education, computer-based, e-learning, web-based, and internet-based; (ii) population - pediatrician, physician, nurse, psychologist, medical; (iii) outcome - pain*. Thirty-two studies (13 randomised control trials, 5 non-randomised controlled trials, 14 single-group pre-post studies) were included. Ten provided data for inclusion in a series of between-groups meta-analyses. Post-intervention, participants receiving online instruction had significantly greater knowledge compared to those receiving training as usual/alternative training (Hedges' g = 0.80, 95% CI: 0.12, 1.49), and students had significantly greater skills compared to students receiving training as usual (g = 1.34, CI: 0.38, 2.30). No significant differences were found for confidence/competence (g = 0.02, CI: -0.79, 0.84) or attitudes/beliefs (g = 0.16, CI: -0.48, 0.79). Although online educational resources show promise in improving learner knowledge, considerable heterogeneity exists between studies in quality, design, educational content, and outcomes. Further methodologically robust RCTs are required to establish the effectiveness of online educational interventions and a greater understanding of the key features of successful online resources, including cognitive interactivity. Few studies assessed health outcomes for patients, remaining a major priority for future investigations.

Hospital nurses’ information retrieval behaviours in relation to evidence based nursing: a literature review.

Source: Health Information and Libraries Journal 35(1) : 3-23

Publication Date: 2018

Background: Objective: The purpose of this literature review is to provide an overview of the information retrieval behaviour of clinical nurses, in terms of the use of databases and other information resources and their frequency of use.

Methods: Systematic searches carried out in five databases and handsearching were used to identify the studies from 2010 to 2016, with a populations, exposures and outcomes (PEO) search strategy, focusing on the question: In which databases or other information resources do hospital nurses search for evidence based information, and how often?

Results: Of 5272 titles retrieved based on the search strategy, only nine studies fulfilled the criteria for inclusion. The studies are from the United States, Canada, Taiwan and Nigeria. The results show that hospital nurses’ primary choice of source for evidence based information is Google and peers, while bibliographic databases such as PubMed are secondary choices. Data on frequency are only included in four of the studies, and data are heterogenous.

Conclusion: The reasons for choosing Google and peers are primarily lack of time; lack of information; lack of retrieval skills; or lack of training in database searching. Only a few studies are published on clinical nurses’ retrieval behaviours, and more studies are needed from Europe and Australia.
Patients and the Public

Informed consent for research mandated image guided biopsies—Are patients provided with adequate information?

Source: European Journal of Surgical Oncology
Publication Date: Nov 2017

Background: Increasingly, clinical trials require image guided biopsies carrying inherent risks, which patients are informed about by the study specific Patient Information Sheets (PIS). This audit examined the information within the PIS about the risks or discomforts of an image guided biopsy and considered whether patients had been provided with information which was accurate enough for them to provide "informed" consent to the procedure.

Method: Relevant patients were identified using the Radiology Clinical Trials Database. The relevant PIS were evaluated for mention of risks or discomforts related to the biopsy and compared to The Christie standard information sheet. Electronic patient notes were subsequently reviewed to identify any complications.

Results: The audit encompassed 92 patients across 42 different clinical trials. The information provided by the PIS ranged from excellent to non-existent. Omissions included the risks of bleeding, infection, pneumothorax or haemoptysis. 10 patients experienced post biopsy complications which were not mentioned in the PIS. Consent was withdrawn in several cases due to a number of factors.

Conclusion: Not all patients having these biopsies are provided with accurate or accessible information by the PIS about the risks of the procedure. Consequently they are therefore unable to make an informed choice about consent. It is proposed that patients are provided with the Christie standard information sheet alongside the study specific PIS when considering participation in a clinical trial.

Conference abstract - If you have access to this journal you can you can view within the original publication here

Patterns of Internet-based health information seeking in adult survivors of childhood cancer

Source: Pediatric Blood and Cancer
Publication Date: 2018

Background: To assess where, when, and why survivors of childhood cancer seek health information.

Procedure: Data from the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study (CCSS) cohort (n = 1386) and Health Information National Trends Survey (n = 2385) were analyzed to determine the health information seeking strategies of childhood cancer survivors. Descriptive frequencies, chi2 analyses, t-tests, and multivariable logistic regression models were used.
Results: To seek health-related information for themselves, 54% (n = 742) of the childhood survivors reported using the Internet in the past 12 months, compared to 45% of the general population (adjusted OR: 2.76; 95% CI: 2.40-3.19). Childhood cancer survivors who used the Internet for health information were more likely to be female, between the ages of 18-34, have received some college education or be a college graduate, and report being in poor health. Although survivors were less likely than the general population to trust health information from the Internet (P < 0.01), they indicated that they would like a secure website that uses information from their medical records to provide individualized health-related information.

Conclusion: The use of the Internet to access health information among the childhood cancer survivors was over 50%. Information on late effects was a high priority for most survivors, as was their interest in websites related to late effects and a website on patient information tailored to personal situations. Identification of factors associated with searching the Internet for cancer information may provide direction for development of effective cancer communication interventions for this at-risk population.

If you have access to this journal you can read the full article [here](#).

**Are patients prepared for physiotherapy? A patient experience survey in a hospital outpatient department**

**Source:** Physiotherapy (United Kingdom)

**Publication Date:** Dec 2017

Purpose: Departmental concern about patient nonattendance rates and its effect on therapist’s job satisfaction lead to the work being undertaken. The audit aimed to evaluate patient experiences prior to Physiotherapy in order to identify factors that may be relevant to patient attendance at new or subsequent appointments and direct further study.

Methods: An audit was carried out in an outpatient physiotherapy department comprising of a musculoskeletal service, hand therapy, women’s health and outpatient neurological physiotherapy service. After discussion with therapists a questionnaire was developed covering aspects of patient experience considered to be related to poor attendance. A questionnaire was used in order to gain the widest and most cost effective measure of patient experience. A convenience sample of patients were asked to complete the anonymous questionnaire in the waiting area prior to their appointment. 2116 patients attending for new patient (NP) or follow up appointments (f/up) completed the questionnaire over a one month period. In order to ensure that no therapies staff were involved in data collection a hospital volunteer entered patient responses on a tablet. Descriptive analysis was used to summarise the data. Responses were categorised as experiences related to pre-appointment, arrival in hospital, waiting area, as well as patient perception of future benefit. Free text comments were coded into themes and analysed. The results were then discussed by therapists and comments invited on an online bulletin board. All comments were then collated and disseminated for service improvement planning.

Results: 39% of responses were from NP visits. 73% of patients knew why they were attending Physiotherapy, 38% of patients felt that the appointment letter fully explained what therapy involved, 36% partial explained and 26% gave no explanation. Comments showed that lack of
Information about what to wear, appointment duration and what would happen at the appointment were important to patients. Poor hospital and department signage was the most common (10.5%) issue identified and 45% of patients saw health information in the Physiotherapy department. 70% agreed (24% NP, 46%f/up) that they expected to make positive changes to their health as a result of Physiotherapy, whilst 8% (3% NP, 5% f/up) strongly agreed and 22% (NP 12%, f/up 10%) neither agreed or disagreed. Staff agreed that information was lacking and suggested remedies.

Conclusion(s): The audit showed a lack of information in the pre appointment letter, signage and department. It highlighted that 27% of patients did not know why they were attending and 22% were ambivalent about whether they would experience positive health changes as a result of physiotherapy. However the numbers expecting positive benefit improved from NP to f/up appointments. Lack of patient understanding of the effects of treatment prior to and during therapy are likely to be relevant in attendance rates and warrant further study. Implications: This study has led to a change to patient information available prior to an appointment. The results will be re-audited and have relevance to similar departments looking to improve patient experience and compliance.

If you have access to this journal you can read the full article here.

A novel use of QR code stickers after orthopaedic cast application
Source: Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England
Publication Date: Jul 2017

INTRODUCTION We present a novel solution to ensure that information and contact details are always available to patients while in cast. An information sticker containing both telephone numbers and a Quick Response (QR) code is applied to the cast. When scanned with a smartphone, the QR code loads the plaster team's webpage. This contains information and videos about cast care, complications and enhancing recovery.

METHODS A sticker was designed and applied to all synthetic casts fitted in our fracture clinic. On cast removal, patients completed a questionnaire about the sticker. A total of 101 patients were surveyed between November 2015 and February 2016. The questionnaire comprised ten binary choice questions.

RESULTS The vast majority (97%) of patients had the sticker still on their cast when they returned to clinic for cast removal. Eighty-four per cent of all patients felt reassured by the presence of the QR code sticker. Nine per cent used the contact details on the cast to seek advice. Over half (56%) had a smartphone and a third (33%) of these scanned the QR code. Of those who scanned the code, 95% found the information useful.

CONCLUSIONS This study indicates that use of a QR code reassures patients and is an effective tool in the proactive management of potential cast problems. The QR code sticker is now applied to all casts across our trust. In line with NHS England’s Five Year Forward View calling for enhanced use of smartphone technology, our trust is continuing to expand its portfolio of patient information accessible via QR codes. Other branches of medicine may benefit from incorporating QR codes as portals to access such information.
Treatment selection of early stage non-small cell lung cancer: the role of the patient in clinical decision making.
Source: BMC cancer
Publication Date: Jan 2018

BACKGROUND The objective of this study is to investigate the role and experience of early stage non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patient in decision making process concerning treatment selection in the current clinical practice.

METHODS Stage I-II NSCLC patients (surgery 55 patients, SBRT 29 patients, median age 68) were included in this prospective study and completed a questionnaire that explored: (1) perceived patient knowledge of the advantages and disadvantages of the treatment options, (2) experience with current clinical decision making, and (3) the information that the patient reported to have received from their treating physician. This was assessed by multiple-choice, 1-5 Likert Scale, and open questions. The Decisional Conflict Scale was used to assess the decisional conflict. Health related quality of life (HRQoL) was measured with SF-36 questionnaire.

RESULTS In 19% of patients, there was self-reported perceived lack of knowledge about the advantages and disadvantages of the treatment options. Seventy-four percent of patients felt that they were sufficiently involved in decision-making by their physician, and 81% found it important to be involved in decision making. Forty percent experienced decisional conflict, and one-in-five patients to such an extent that it made them feel unsure about the decision. Subscores with regard to feeling uninformed and on uncertainty, contributed the most to decisional conflict, as 36% felt uninformed and 17% of patients were not satisfied with their decision. HRQoL was not influenced by patient experience with decision-making or patient preferences for shared decision making.

CONCLUSIONS Dutch early-stage NSCLC patients find it important to be involved in treatment decision making. Yet a substantial proportion experiences decisional conflict and feels uninformed. Better patient information and/or involvement in treatment-decision-making is needed in order to improve patient knowledge and hopefully reduce decisional conflict.

You can read the full text here

Understanding cancer survivors’ information needs and information-seeking behaviors for complementary and alternative medicine from short- to long-term survival: a mixed-methods study
Source: Journal of the Medical Library Association
Publication Date: January 2018

Objective: The research examined complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) information-seeking behaviors and preferences from short- to long-term cancer survival, including goals, motivations, and information sources. Methods: A mixed-methods approach was used with cancer
survivors from the “Assessment of Patients’ Experience with Cancer Care” 2004 cohort. Data collection included a mail survey and phone interviews using the critical incident technique (CIT).

Results: Seventy survivors from the 2004 study responded to the survey, and eight participated in the CIT interviews. Quantitative results showed that CAM usage did not change significantly between 2004 and 2015. The following themes emerged from the CIT: families’ and friends’ provision of the initial introduction to a CAM, use of CAM to manage the emotional and psychological impact of cancer, utilization of trained CAM practitioners, and online resources as a prominent source for CAM information. The majority of participants expressed an interest in an online information-sharing portal for CAM. Conclusion: Patients continue to use CAM well into long-term cancer survivorship. Finding trustworthy sources for information on CAM presents many challenges such as reliability of source, conflicting information on efficacy, and unknown interactions with conventional medications. Study participants expressed interest in an online portal to meet these needs through patient testimonials and linkage of claims to the scientific literature. Such a portal could also aid medical librarians and clinicians in locating and evaluating CAM information on behalf of patients.

You can read the full text [here](#).

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**Internet and social media use for antibiotic-related information seeking: Findings from a survey among adult population in Italy**

**Source:** International Journal of Medical Informatics

**Date of publication:** March 2018

**Background** The Internet represents an increasingly common source of health-related information. Internet and Social Media can be used to promote a prudent use of antibiotics. Objective To establish the extent of Internet and Social Media use to search for antibiotic related information and the potential implications in health care among adult population in Italy. Methods This cross-sectional study was conducted from March to May 2017, among a sample of parents of public school students. A 2-stage cluster sample design was planned. An informed consent form and a questionnaire were given to selected students to deliver to their parents. The questionnaire included questions on knowledge, attitudes, and behavior toward antibiotic use, and questions about Internet use to gather information about antibiotics. Results A total of 913 parents completed the questionnaire, with a 67.4% response rate; 22.1% did not know when it was appropriate to use antibiotics. 32.3% of parents reported self-medication with antibiotics. 73.4% of respondents used the Internet to search for information about antibiotic use. Among social networks users, 46.5% reported the use of these media to get information about antibiotics and 45% of instant messaging app users share information about antibiotics. The results of the multiple logistic regression analysis showed that Internet use to search for antibiotic-related information was higher among females, younger subjects, with a higher level of education, in
those who reported self-medication with antibiotics and in those who needed additional information on side effects of antibiotics from the GP compared with those who did not need any additional information. Internet use was significantly less likely in participants with cardiovascular diseases and cancer compared with those without chronic conditions, and in those who reported to strongly agree/agree, or were uncertain about antibiotic use without a GP prescription, compared with those who reported to be disagree/strongly disagree. Conclusions Internet and social media are widely used for antibiotic-related information seeking in the Italian population. Health organizations must consider social media within their communication strategy to promote the appropriate Web use for antibiotic-related information seeking in the general population, although more evidence is needed regarding the optimal mix of communication interventions. Copyright © 2017 Elsevier B.V.

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How, When and Why People Seek Health Information Online: Qualitative Study in Hong Kong

Source: Interactive journal of medical research
Date of Publication: 2017

Background: The Internet has become an established source for health information. The number of individuals using the Internet to search for health information, ranging from healthy lifestyle advice to treatment and diseases, continues to grow. Scholars have emphasized the need to give greater voice and influence to health consumers. Hong Kong, being one of the most technologically advanced and connected cities in the world, has one of the highest Internet penetration rates in the world. Given the dearth of research in an Asian context, Hong Kong is an excellent platform to study individuals’ perceptions (eg, benefits and limitations on seeking health information online and how the information is used) on health information seeking. Objective: The aim of this paper was to study individuals’ perceptions on health information seeking and to document their Internet information seeking behaviors. Methods: Five focus groups (n=49) were conducted from November 2015 to January 2016 with individuals across different age groups (18 years or above). Focus group contents were audiotaped, transcribed, and analyzed using thematic analysis techniques. Results: Older (55+ years) and less educated respondents were less likely to use the Internet to search for health information. Among individuals who obtained health information via the Internet, regardless of the severity of the health issue, the Internet was always the first source for information. Limited doctor consultation time and barriers to accessing professional health services were the main reasons for using the Internet. Convenience and coverage were regarded as the main advantages, whereas credibility and trustworthiness of health information were noted as limitations. The use of Web-based health information varied among individuals; hence, the implications on the doctor-patient relationship were mixed. Conclusions: The prevalent and increasing use of the Internet for health information seeking suggests the need for health care professionals to understand how it can be optimally utilized to improve health.
outcomes. Strategies for communicating and disseminating credible health information in a form that users can understand and use are essential. Due to the rapid technological and related behavioral changes, online health information seeking and its effects need to be closely monitored.

You can read the full text [here](#).

**Health information needs of pregnant women: information sources, motives and barriers**

**Source:** Health Information & Libraries Journal

**Date of Publication:** March 2018

Background: Pregnant women should be provided with relevant and useful information to manage this specific period of their lives. Assessing information needs of this group is a prerequisite for providing this information. Objective: The aim of this study was to assess the information needs of pregnant women during their pregnancy and childbirth. Methods: This descriptive study was conducted on the pregnant women who attended antenatal clinics and obstetricians/gynaecologists’ offices in Kerman, Iran, in 2015. Data were collected using a self-administered, valid and reliable questionnaire. A total of 400 women participated in the study. Findings: Most pregnant women needed information about care of the foetus (n = 344, 86%), physical and psychological complications after delivery (n = 333, 83%), development and growth of the foetus (n = 330, 82.5%), pregnancy nutrition (n = 327, 82%) and special tests during pregnancy (n = 326, 81.5%). They mostly (n = 195, 49%) looked for information when they were suffering from a disease or pregnancy complications. Conclusions: As pregnant women need extensive information to be able to take care of themselves and their babies, their information needs should be identified and taken into consideration when planning educational programmes for this group of women.

If you have access to this journal you can read the full text [here](#).

**Key Concepts for Informed Health Choices: a framework for helping people learn how to assess treatment claims and make informed choices**

**Source:** BMJ Evidence Based Medicine

**Date of Publication:** January 2018

Read the full text [here](#).
Men's information-seeking behavior regarding cancer risk and screening: A meta-narrative systematic review  
Source: Psycho-Oncology  
Publication Date: August 2017  

Objective: Preventive strategies are known to reduce cancer risk and incidence and improve prognosis. Men seldom seek medical information about cancer prevention and risk reduction. The aim of this meta-narrative systematic review was to critically appraise evidence from qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods studies that explored men's information-seeking behaviors in relation to cancer prevention and risk reduction. Methods: MEDLINE, CINAHL Plus with Full Text, PsycINFO, PsycARTICLES, Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection, Education Full Text, and ERIC were systematically searched for studies published in English between January 1, 2006 and May 30, 2016. A total of 4117 titles were identified; of which, 31 studies were included (21 qualitative studies, 9 quantitative studies, and 1 mixed-methods study). The methodological quality of the studies was appraised by using different tools. Results: Most studies focused on screening for prostate (n = 18) and colorectal cancer (n = 7). Most men were passive information-gatherers rather than active information-seekers. Key sources of information included the Internet for active information-seekers and health care professionals for passive information-gatherers. Barriers to information-seeking included information overload, embarrassment, and fear. Low literacy and health literacy levels were addressed in 3 studies and were identified as impediments to active information-seeking. Facilitators to information-seeking included family support, media, celebrity endorsements, and targeted information. Conclusions: Men's information-seeking behavior regarding cancer risk reduction, prevention, and screening is influenced by several factors. This necessitates targeted interventions aimed at raising awareness of cancer prevention and screening, while accounting for men's informational needs, preferred learning strategies, and literacy levels.