Health-Related Web Site Evaluation Form

This evaluation instrument is for health educators and clinicians to use to evaluate the appropriateness of web sites for their clients and patients for further health education. Please take a few minutes to browse the site before completing the evaluation form.

I. Web site information

Title of site:_____

Subject of site: _____

Web site address: _____

Whom do you think is the intended audience?

_____

What do you think the objective is for this site?

_____

_____

Circle the number which you feel best represents the site: 1 = disagree, 2 = agree, 0 = not applicable (N/A). Add up the total points scored for each page at the bottom of each page.

II. Content

	Disagree	Agree	N/A
1. The purpose of the site is clearly stated or may be clearly inferred.	1	2	0
2. The information covered does not appear to be an "infomercial" (i.e., an advertisement disguised as health education.)	1	2	0
3. There is no bias evident.	1	2	0
4. If the site is opinionated, the author discusses all sides of the issue, giving each due respect.	1	2	0
5. All aspects of the subject are covered adequately.	1	2	0
6. External Links are provided to fully cover the subject (if not needed, circle 0).	1	2	0

III. Accuracy

7. The information is accurate (if not sure, circle 0).	1	2	0
8. Sources are clearly documented.	1	2	0
9. The web site states that it subscribes to HON code principles.	1	2	0

Page Score _____

	Disagree	Agree	N/A
IV. Author			
10. The site is sponsored by or is associated with an institution or organization.	1	2	0
11. For sites created by an individual, author's/editor's credentials (educational background, professional affiliations, certifications, past writings, experience) are clearly stated.	1	2	0
12. Contact information (email, address, and/or phone number) for the author/editor or webmaster is included.	1	2	0
V. Currency			
13. The date of publication is clearly posted.	1	2	0
14. The revision date is recent enough to account for changes in the field.	1	2	0
VI. Audience			
15. The type of audience the author is addressing is evident (academic, youth, minority, general, etc.).	1	2	0
16. The level of detail is appropriate for the audience.	1	2	0
17. The reading level is appropriate for the audience.	1	2	0
18. Technical terms are appropriate for the audience.	1	2	0
VII. Navigation			
19. Internal links add to the usefulness of the site.	1	2	0
20. Information can be retrieved in a timely manner.	1	2	0
21. A search mechanism is necessary to make this site useful.	1	2	0
22. A search mechanism is provided.	1	2	0
23. The site is organized in a logical manner, facilitating the location of information.	1	2	0
24. Any software necessary to use the page has links to download software from the Internet.	1	2	0
VIII. External Links			
25. Links are relevant and appropriate for this site.	1	2	0
26. Links are operable.	1	2	0
27. Links are current enough to account for changes in the field.	1	2	0
28. Links are appropriate for the audience (e.g. site for the general. public do not include links to highly technical sites).	1	2	0
29. Links connect to reliable information from reliable sources.	1	2	0
30. Links are provided to organizations that should be represented.	1	2	0

Page Score _____

	Disagree	Agree	N/A
IX. Structure			
31. Educational graphics and art add to the usefulness of the site.	1	2	0
32. Decorative graphics do not significantly slow down-loading	1	2	0
33. Text-only option is available for text-only Web browsers.	1	2	0
34. Usefulness of site does not suffer when using text-only option.	1	2	0
35. Options are available for disabled persons (large print, audio).	1	2	0
36. If audio and video are components of the site, and can not be accessed, the information on the site is still complete.	1	2	0

Page Score _____

Total score _____

Total number of possible points _____

Percentage of total points _____

Total the number of points possible (the number of questions scored with either disagree or disagree multiplied by two). Divide your total score by the total number of points possible to determine the overall rating of this web site.

At least 90% of total possible points.	**Excellent**: This web site is an excellent source of patient information. Patients will be able to easily access and understand the information contained in this site. Do not hesitate to recommend this site to your clientele.
At least 75% total possible points.	**Adequate**: While this web site provides relevant information and of can be navigated without much trouble, it might not be the best site available. If another source cannot be located, this site will provide good information to your patient. Care should be taken to discuss with your patient what information was found on this web site and what information is still needed.
< 75% of total possible	**Poor**: This site should not be recommended to your patients. Validity and reliability of the information can not be confirmed. All information on the site might not be accessible. Look for points another web site to prevent false or partial information from being read.