Evaluate the Evidence: An Innovative Method for Web Page Evaluation

Introduction
This research study measured the acceptance of an assessment tool developed by this researcher. Using the tool named SPAT (Site, Publisher, Audience, Timeliness), evaluates web page content quality and reliability.

Methodology
Tool Development: To develop a tool that would be used to assess web page content. An analysis of methods used to review paper resources was done and then compared with published methods to review web sites or web pages.

Case Study: Two sets of web pages were used for a pre and post analysis with SPAT. Each set contained two web sites discussing diabetes.

Limitations:
• Only professionals in the field of diabetes will be measured
• The study sample population will only concern clinical professionals
• No control can be established to prevent the Hawthorne Effect from occurring

Discussion
The questionnaires in the pilot study used to evaluate SPAT and the demographic questionnaire were successful in gathering the necessary data. The variance of age and mixed professions in the sample population showed evidence of disparity in the knowledge of web page components that should be present when selecting a web page for reliable information.

Research Questions
1. At what level do Pittsburgh metropolitan area Certified Diabetes Educators (CDEs) use information from the Web in their professional practice?
2. What kind of assessment do Pittsburgh metropolitan area CDEs perform on web based diabetes information before recommending the information to patients?
3. If CDEs perform an assessment of web based diabetes information before recommending the information to patients, what do they do?
4. At what level does the use of the SPAT assessment tool for web-based information make a difference in the information CDEs provide to patients?