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# The Development of a Standardized Tool to Evaluate Physical Health Websites through the Lens of Persons with Serious Mental Illness

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# The Development of a Standardized Tool to Evaluate Physical Health Websites through the Lens of Persons with Serious Mental Illness

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## **Keywords**

Website Evaluation, Website Quality, Mental Health Information Literacy

## **Comments**

Poster presented at the Substance Abuse Librarians and Information Specialists/Association of Mental Health Librarians conference, May 6, 2016, Denver, CO.

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# The Development of a Standardized Tool to Evaluate Physical Health Websites through the Lens of persons with Serious Mental Illness



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## 1. AIMS OF THE STUDY

- Create a standardized survey tool to assess the quality of existing websites for use by people with serious mental illness (SMI). Research (Rotondi, 2007) demonstrates that persons with SMI have demonstrated limited abilities in using online health resources
- Persons with SMI are at higher risk of morbidity and mortality from specific physical illnesses (Doherty, 2014; Druss, 2011; Olfson, 2015; Suetani, 2015). Use the data from this survey will be used to create a new tool that can provide people with serious mental illness appropriate physical health information

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### Literature Review

Review of articles assessing quality measures of websites for people with SMI

### Key concepts

Identification of global themes

### Survey tool

Creation of a new tool, using validated DISCREN survey instrument as basis

### Consistency/Usability

Testing the consistency and usability of the survey with library and mental health professionals (N=5)

### Analyzing data

Reviewing test data for consistency and clarity

### Refining the Tool

Editing and refining questions based on data and feedback

## 3. PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Following the testing phase of the survey:

- **55%** of the questions had **high consistency** (our definition of consistency was on a scale from 0 to 5, where over 4 was considered as high consistency) and were estimated to be applicable for use in the full survey
- Support of segmentation of survey into two parts - **Part 1** studying usability, navigation and interactivity to assess **quality of website format**  
**Part 2** studying etiological, diagnostic, therapeutic and/or prognostic elements to assess **quality of website content**
- The survey was pared from 85 to 61 questions. Some question were combined due to perceived redundancy and others were eliminated as not applicable based on verbal feedback of those testing the survey

## 4. NEXT STEPS

- Survey will be loaded in to RedCAP Software for distribution
- Five topic areas have been identified based on most prevalent physical health co-morbidities in persons with SMI (cardiovascular health, obesity, diabetes, tobacco use)
- Survey, along with list of websites to re reviewed, will be distributed to identified subject specialists with expertise in mental and physical health
- Members of the project teams (above listed authors) will participate as reviewers as well

## POSTER ABSTRACT



## CONCLUSIONS

The University of Massachusetts Medical School and the Dartmouth Psychiatric Research Center have been awarded a three-year grant from the National Library of Medicine to create a new website, designed for persons with SMI, that will provide them with high-quality resources to address their physical health issues. Results from this survey will be used to define the quality indicators that will be used in the design of this new site as well as those that will need to be present in sites to which we link.

## PROJECT LOGO



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