SAVYY SEARCHING FOR SENIOR HEALTH

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October 1 and 8
What has your experience been?

• How many of you try to find health information on the internet?

• How do you go about it?

• Do you feel that you’ve found helpful results?
Health Literacy Defined

• “The degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions.”

Healthy People, 2010
Contributing Factors

• Vision and hearing changes
  Hearing loss affects 1 out of 3 adults

• Cognitive changes
  Reduced processing speed
  More easily distracted
  Difficulty remembering new information
Additional Factors

- Multiple medical conditions
- Many, many medications
- Talking to doctors
- Internet comfort levels
Talking to doctors

“The patient has the right and is encouraged to obtain ... relevant, current and understandable information about his/her diagnosis, treatment and prognosis.”

Patient Bill of Rights 1973
HOW TO EVALUATE A HEALTH WEBSITE

PROVIDER
Who is in charge of the website?

Why are they providing the website?

Can you contact them?

FUNDING
Where does the money come from?

Does the website have advertisements?
QUALITY

Where does the information on the site come from?

How is the content selected? Is it reviewed by experts?

Does the site avoid unbelievable or emotional claims?

How current is the information? Look for a date.
Does the site ask for your personal information?

Do they tell you how it will be used?

Are you comfortable with how it will be used?
What does the address tell you?

Most likely to be reliable:

http://www.medlineplus.GOV
http://www.health.GOV

http://www.familydoctor.ORG
http://www.healthinaging.ORG

http://www.gmu.EDU

Be cautious about some websites with .COM
TOOL TO FIND CERTIFIED SITES

http://www.hon.ch/HONsearch/Patients/index.html

You may enter any disease or condition to identify reliable website links
Website under Audit

- Title of the site: **NetWellness**
  Web address: [http://www.netwellness.org/](http://www.netwellness.org/)

- HONcode PIN number: HONConduct371643

- Date of initial review: 28 Jun 2000
- Date of last visit: 19 Sep 2012
Look at Funding Source

Voices for PFD
Is this a trustworthy website?

www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/webeval/webeval_start.html
HEALTH SEARCH ENGINES

- http://www.healthfinder.gov
- http://www.ehealthcarebot.com

This resource is current only to 2010. Some links are no longer valid.
More Medical Search Engines

• http://www.omnimedicalsearch.com/overview

• http://www.search-22.com/general_reference/health

• http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2012/06/04/bisb0604.htm

  Article worth reading about search engines
Materials on OLLI DocStore

• Go to DocStore
  
  •  http://www.olligmu.org/~docstore/

Scroll down to:

• F801  Savvy Searching for Senior Health