Uncovering the outcomes of the use of online consumer health information: A participatory systematic mixed studies review

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Background
Online consumer health information may lead to improved knowledge, more active participation in healthcare, and better health, but
- Little is known about the value of this information,
- No comprehensive tool for assessing it,
- No aids for helping find and use relevant general health information.

Objectives
- Identify types of patient information-use and types of patient health outcomes
- Identify conditions (context, information-seeking, and use) associated with outcomes
- Integrate findings into a Patient Information Aid

Methods
Participatory approach: researchers, representatives of patients, health librarians, and information providers are involved in all research stages

Systematic mixed studies review: includes qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods studies

Research question: For community-based primary health care patients, what are the outcomes associated with the use of online consumer health information?

 Eligibility criteria:
- Written in French or English
- Research in community-based primary health care
- Research about the use of online consumer health information
- Empirical research

Information sources: Medline, Embase, PsycINFO, CINAHL, LISA, and grey literature

Tools: DistillerSR for screening abstracts and full text, and Blogspot to communicate with participants

Identification: 2645 unique records were retrieved from database searches. For each record, two independent reviewers will assign codes based on eligibility criteria. For each code, we will calculate a kappa statistic. Discrepancy between reviewers will be resolved by discussion. Unresolved disagreements will be referred to a third party.

Selection: For each document (full text) two independent reviewers will assign 'eligibility' codes. As with the identification process, kappa statistics will be calculated, and disagreements between reviewers will be resolved.

Appraisal: To assess the methodological quality of included studies we will use the Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool (MMAT) http://mixedmethodsappraisaltoolpublic.pbworks.com

Synthesis: Guided by a sequential exploratory mixed methods design, we will conduct a 2-phase synthesis, and combine a qualitative thematic analysis with a quantitative Boolean analysis using a Configurational Comparative Method.

Expected results and knowledge translation plan
Based on this synthesis and the Information Assessment Method (IAM) for patients (Pluye et al. 2014), we plan to:
- Deliver the first systematic mixed studies review in this domain
- Reveal areas where research is needed
- Design a Patient Information Aid (an aid to facilitate primary care patients’ use of online consumer health information, potentially leading to better patient health outcomes.

For more information: visit piasr.blogspot.ca or contact veragranikov@gmail.com

References