

## **Quality of Online Health Information**

The quality of health information may be affected by author, audience, and when it was written. You might consider:

### **Who is the author?**

- Is an author listed on the article? If yes:
  - Look the author up. Are they qualified to provide the information? What is their education and experience? The author should be a medical professional who is an expert on the topic.
  - What is needed to be a member?
  
- If no author is listed:
  - Can you easily find who is paying for the article? The group paying for the article may influence the information.
  - Does the site list advisors? The group advising may influence the information given.
  - Look for an “About Us” page or for organizations listed at the bottom or top of the web page.

### **How often is the website updated?**

Websites should reflect the most up-to-date information. Health information changes all the time. Look for a publication date within the last five years.

### **Who is the intended audience?**

Many health information websites have two different areas - one for consumers, one for professionals. Avoid information that is written for health professionals if you are not trained in this area.

### **Does the website use facts (not opinions)?**

Information should be presented in a clear way. It should be factual (not someone’s opinion) and should include facts to show you where the information came from, such as links to other websites.