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NU 525 Unit 3 Assignment: Consumer Health Information Website Analysis Paper: Drugs

Use during Pregnancy

NU 525: Technology and Nursing Informatics in Advanced Practice

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NU 525 Unit 3 Assignment: Consumer Health Information Website Analysis Paper: Drugs

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Significance of the topic/issue selected

Prenatal drug use is a health concern that is associated with several harmful fetal and maternal consequences. Women who at reproductive age, particularly ages 18-29 years have higher risks of experiencing substance use disorder (Forray, 2016). Based on these insights, young women who are about to become pregnant or are pregnant are at increased vulnerability **for drug abuse-related illness. Despite that concerns about drug use during pregnancy have existed in past, it is becoming prevalent among policymakers, the public and healthcare providers in regards to the impacts of the opioid epidemic, which have increased in the US population including infants and pregnant women. According to Patrick and Schiff (2017), the rate of infants experiencing neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) in the US has increased in five** folds in the last decade. On the contrary, pregnant women abuse require information on the effects of medical drugs on the pregnancy and fetus. At the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, pregnant women require to know whether there exist underlying risks of vaccines and antiviral drugs on the pregnancy and fetus outcomes.

Evaluation of the Design of Website

The name of the commercial site on the homepage of the website www.msmanuals.com is MSD MANUAL Consumer Version. The website is designed to offer medical information and its slogan reads “The trusted provider of medical information

since 1899”. Besides, it has a sub headline on the home page reading “The best first place to go for medical information”.

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The design of the website has a maroon theme and a congested layout for various features and content. For each webpage displayed on this website, the header has an options tab for changing the languages including Chinese, Korean, Japanese, French, Spanish, English, German, Portuguese, Arabic, and Russian. The website has a link for switching to the professional version of the website that has a blue theme. Besides, each web page has a tab for health topics, symptoms, emergencies, resources, and news. Aside from the search tab, each webpage has health topics and chapters listed alphabetically. The approach of listing the health topics in alphabetical orders serves as the table of content and it enhances the audience to identify their desired health issue easily. For each webpage, the design has a tab for accessible features of topic resources in the content displayed including 3D models, audios, calculators, videos, tables,



laboratory interests, and images. The topic resources provide infographics to enhance readers to access simplified visual information on the content (McGonigle & Mastrian, 2017). The content of the webpage uses Arial font size 10.5, which affects the ease to read because the font is small and makes the content appear detailed and cluttered to read. However, the website appears to be professional.

Merck and Co., Inc have sponsored the website. Merck and Co., Inc. is a global healthcare organization situated in North America. The enterprise is committed to present global medical knowledge to serve the community by improving the well-being and health of the people in need. Aside from sharing health information with the community, the sponsoring company develops new therapies to prevent diseases and treat diseases.

The site is updated frequently and was updated recently. Based on the webpage of drug use during pregnancy, the content was last modified on February 2021, which is necessary for sites with health information (For Health Consumers and Patients, n.d). However, the webpage lacks information on the date of creation of the site.

The website states that the content is medical advice. On the homepage of the site, there is a tab indicating "authored by hundreds of top medical experts". The site content clarifies that the involved medical experts are independent-minded free from corporate or commercial bias. Moreover, at the bottom-right of each webpage has a certification code indicating that the site

has complied with the HONcode standard for trustworthy health information, and it is open for the audience to verify the code.

The overall goal of the site is to offer medical knowledge to individuals who seek it. The site lacks a statement for a clear target audience because it presents health information on various issues. However, content is presented in an approach that captures the target audience of women on women's health issues regarding drug use during pregnancy.

The credibility of the site

The site has information demonstrating that the authors have the authority to provide information. The authors, Avinash Patil and Ravindu Gunatilake are medical professionals in the teaching and research field. Avinash Patil is a clinical assistant professor working in the department of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Arizona. Ravindu Gunatilake is the Director of Clinical Perinatal Medicine, Director of Obstetrical Research in Valley Perinatal Services. Besides, he is an assistant clinical professor in the Creighton University School of Medicine-Phoenix. The site has a link to the email of the organization sponsoring the site. However, there lacks of contact to link with the authors of the content.

The authors are objective to present information on the extensive effects of drug use during pregnancy. The authors offer patient information on the effects or administration of both medical drugs including vaccines, antidepressants, and antiviral drugs and social drugs abused including alcohol, caffeine, amphetamines, opioids, marijuana, hallucinogens, tobacco, and cocaine. The authors are not biased. For instance, on the emphasis of pregnant women infected



with COVID-19 taking remdesivir as antiviral drugs, they insist on the patient to discuss with the clinical experts and highlights that there exists little research on the effects of remdesivir on the fetus.

The authors failed to include a complete list of the work cited. Throughout the content, the authors included findings from quantitative researches providing statistical figures to present epidemiology and prevalence of the concerned drug-related health issues among pregnant women. However, there lack links for the references or sources of the figures. Therefore, the audience is hindered from determining whether the references are authoritative or credible. The absence of the work cited raises the question of the significance of the evidence to support the authors' claims.

The authors presented accurate information, which is consistent with the current studies. The authors expressed that the administration of remdesivir to pregnant woman is recommendable under clinical caution. Recent studies found that remdesivir had mixed results for pregnant woman suffering from severe COVID-19 and has acceptable side effects and low rates of adverse reactions, which health practitioners should caution the patient (Barwick et al., 2020; Singh et al., 2020). Despite that the authors arbitrarily express statements on lack of substantiated evidence on effects of drugs on pregnancy without supporting their claims, they present accurate information. For instance, the authors claim that there lacks clarity on whether



marijuana affects the fetus and to extent downgrade effects of marijuana on fetus growth and behavioral problems for short-term use. Studies highlight for short-term use of marijuana lacks clarity on its effects on fetus health including neurodevelopmental problems, low birth weight, and preterm labor (Galar et al., 2018; Ryan et al., 2018).

The authors included links for additional information on the information. The additional health issues that have been mentioned in the content have been linked to another site that offers more information on the issues. The additional site presents information on the symptoms, prevention, and treatment of the health condition. The site lacks additional links to the independent sites.

Adequacy

The sites provide overall patient education on drug use during pregnancy. The authors **offered important information on various drugs for medical and recreational purposes. However, they failed to present the information in detail. The authors' approach of overall information on the various drugs use during pregnancy limited the extent of exploring each drug, which compels the patients to explore further other sources on specific drugs including prevailing COVID-19 vaccines.**

The sophistication of the information:

The information presented is just right to offer important insights on the effects of each drug used during pregnancy. The authors failed to include technical and complex chemical **names for drugs or health conditions. They maintained the content simple to provide the patient**



with the information that he or she requires to know about each type of the drugs about development and outcomes of pregnancy.

The site lacks a direct statement of the purpose of the site. The purpose of the site is indirectly expressed in the mission statement of the organization. The purpose is expressed as protection, preservation, and sharing the current medical information for enabling professionals and patients to make more informed decisions on health issues. The site has provision for both professional and consumers and information entails critical insights, which makes it match with the purpose of the site. The site offers patient education to enhance them to develop informed decisions on health issues and fails to sell any medical-related services or products to the patient.

Conclusion

Health professionals use websites to present information on patient education or to sell their medical products. At the advent of technology, pregnant women may need to explore **information and services related to the behaviors on the use of drugs during pregnancy. The website www.msmanuals.com offers a platform to address drug use during pregnancy. The website is designed with interactive features of the table of content, themes, visual resources, and layout to enhance reading ease. The credibility of the authors boosts the reliability of the content on the use of antiviral drugs on COVID-19 and short term use of marijuana for pregnant women. The thorough analysis demonstrates the website meets its purpose to educate patients on the use of drugs during pregnancy.**

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