Wellness News You Can Use

New Web Site Helps Consumers Identify Most Trustworthy Online Health Sites

Are you one of the estimated 95 million Americans who search the Internet for health information? With over 10,000 health sites now on the Internet, choosing the most credible and reliable sites for health information can be a daunting task. To help the consumer sort out which website have their best interests at heart, Consumer Health WebWatch, a joint project of Consumer Reports and the Health Improvement Institute, has released ratings of the 20 most trafficked health sites on the Internet. The ratings are available online at:

www.healthratings.org/mainsite.html.

Consumer Reports' panel of experts evaluated the health Web sites across nine different attributes including identity, advertising and sponsorship disclosure, ease of use, privacy, coverage, design, accessibility and contents. Of the 20 sites rated, six were given the highest rating, "Excellent"; five received a "Very Good"; eight were given a rating of "Good"; and one site was rated "Fair." Sites rated "Excellent" were noted to include unbiased, peer-reviewed content written by health professionals. The six sites rated "Excellent" include WebMD Health, National Institutes of Health, MayoClinic.com, MedicineNet.com, KidsHealth, and MedScape.

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