

**Investigating Information Seeking Behaviors Of Primary Care Physicians
Who Take Care of Older Depressed Patients and their Family Caregivers:**
A Pilot Study

Handout which accompanies a presentation given at
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Mary Jo Dorsey, MLS, AHIP

Director

Richard M. Johnston Health Sciences Library
The Western Pennsylvania Hospital
4800 Friendship Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15224 USA

Email: mjdorsey@wpahs.org
(412) 578-4708 Voice | (412) 578-7317 Fax

Adjunct Faculty

Department of Library & Information Science
School of Information Sciences
University of Pittsburgh
135 N. Bellefield Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260 USA

Email: mjd21@pitt.edu
Website: <http://www.pitt.edu/~mjd21>

Ellen Detlefsen, DLS

Associate Professor

Department of Library & Information Science,
School of Information Sciences

Core Faculty

Center for Biomedical Informatics, School of Medicine

Chief, Information Dissemination Unit

NIMH Advanced Center in Interventions and Services
Research for Late Life Mood Disorders, School of Medicine

University of Pittsburgh
135 N. Bellefield Avenue
Pittsburgh PA 15260 USA

Email: ellen@mail.sis.pitt.edu OR detlefseneg@upmc.edu
Website: <http://www2.sis.pitt.edu/~ellen/>
(412) 624-9444 Voice | (412) 648-7001 Fax



Screen shots of the Online Survey

Information Seeking Behaviors of Primary Care Physicians who take care of older depressed patients [Exit this survey >>](#)

2. Page One

Please answer the following as they pertain to your clinical practice setting.

1. What percentage of your practice involves providing care to elderly patients who may be depressed?

2. How many hours per week of your time is spent doing the following?

select
one
answer

Providing clinical care?

Pursuing personal study/CME?

Information seeking for patient education?

Information seeking for clinical decision-making (evidence-based medicine)?

3. Place a check in the box next to items that you yourself use in your office.

- Computer
- Internet access
- PDA

4. Place a check in the box next to each of the methods you use to find information that you give to your patients. You may check more than one.

- Search Internet using a search engine such as Google
- Search Internet using your institution's website and resources
- Search a Library website
- Search professional resources such as MEDLINE/PubMed
- Search professional resources such as MEDLINE/Ovid
- Search professional resources such as UpToDate
- Search professional resources such as MDConsult
- Search consumer health websites such as MedlinePlus
- Scan textbooks or printed materials from a personal collection
- Offer pre-printed materials from your institution
- Offer pre-printed materials from a pharmaceutical or medical device agency
- Consult a colleague
- Consult a Librarian
- Other (please specify)

5. When you need information on these specific topics for a patient or family member, where do you typically go?

	Internet	Printed literature	Colleague	Librarian	Other (please list in Question 6)
Info on general medical conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Info on new medications	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Info on new psychopharmacology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Info on assisted living	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Info on suicide	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Info on spirituality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Info on euthanasia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. If you entered "Other" to any of the selections in Question 5, please list where you go for information.

Information Seeking Behaviors of Primary Care Physicians who take care of older depressed patients [Exit this survey >>](#)

3. Office scan

Please do an environmental scan of your office. Tell us which of the following you have in your primary care office.

7. I have the following items in my clinical care office where I see patients:

- computer
- internet connection
- PDA
- printer
- textbooks
- reprints or copies of journal articles
- hanging files
- commercially produced pamphlets
- pharmaceutical company pamphlets
- local institution produced pamphlets
- information on clinical trials
- audio equipment
- video equipment
- models or charts on walls in visible areas
- Other (please specify)

Information Seeking Behaviors of Primary Care Physicians who take care of older depressed patients [Exit this survey >>](#)

4. Personal Information (optional)

Please provide information for demographic purposes.

8. Degree and Board Certifications

- MD
- DO
- MBBS
- Board Certification in Internal Medicine
- Board Certification in Family Practice
- Board Certification in Osteopathy
- Board Certification in Geriatrics
- Other, please specify in final comments

9. Number of years in practice:

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 0-5 | 6-10 | 11-15 | 16-20 | 21+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

10. Optional contact information: your name, address, and preferred Email address (in case you would like to see the results of this project; this information will be kept separately from your responses). Also, if you have comments or additional information that you would like to share with respect to your information seeking activities, please feel free to enter those comments, etc. here.

Results

Demographics (slide 10)

Credentials:

MD 100%

Board Certifications in:

Internal Medicine 91%
 Family Practice 9%
 Geriatrics 9%
 Other* 36%

***Other included:**

- Certification, Royal College of Physicians, London
- Fellow, American College of Physicians

Number of years in practice:

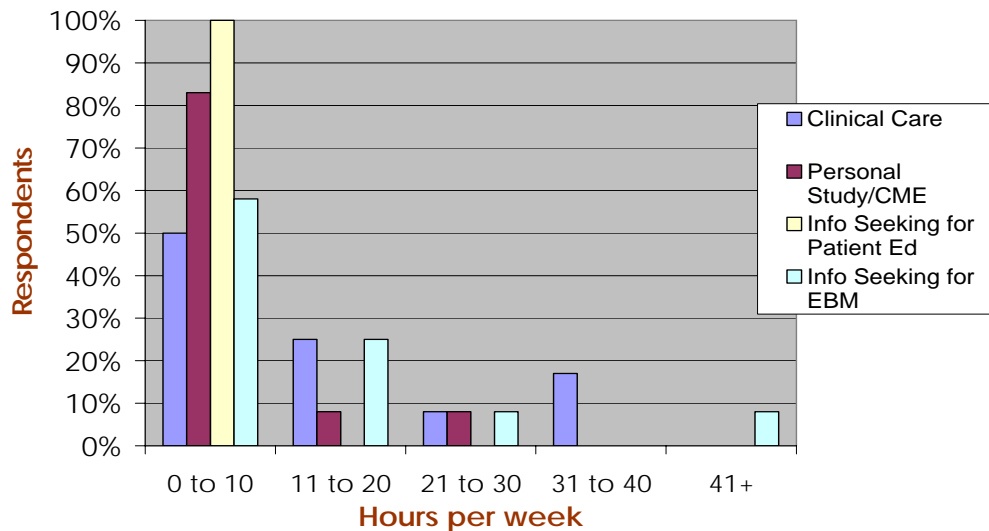
0 – 5 18%
 6 – 10 27%
 11 – 15 18%
 16 – 20 0%
 21+ 36%

Question 1 (slide 11)

Time spent treating elderly patients ranged from 5% - 30% of the physician's work week.

Question 2 (slide 12)

Time spent Information Seeking



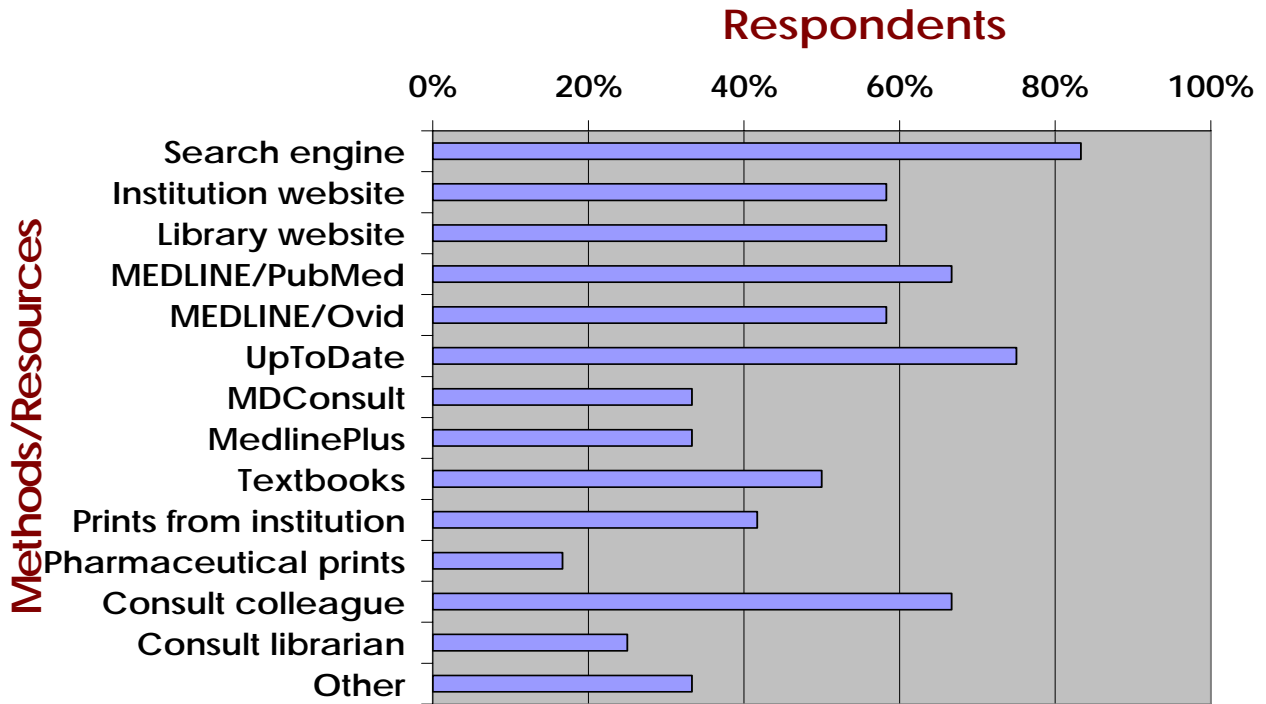
Question 3 (slide 13)

Items physicians used in office

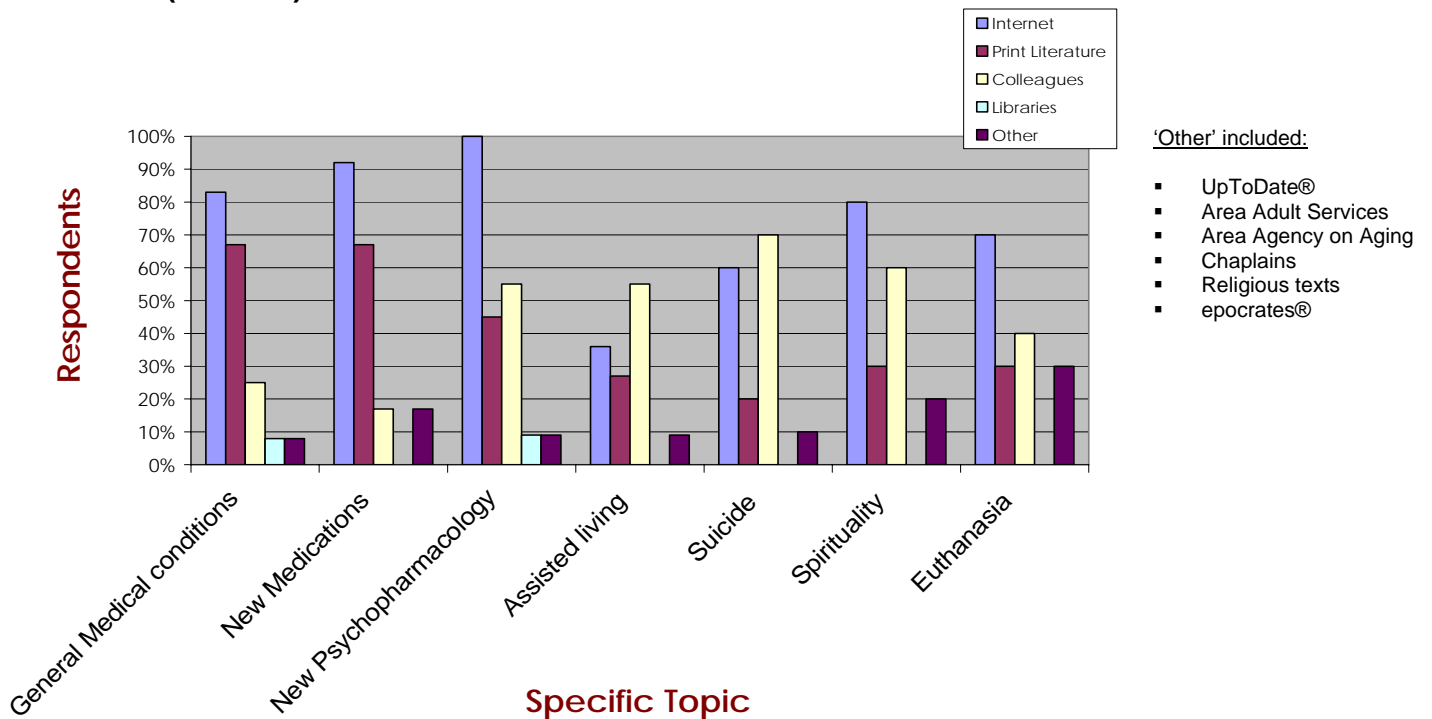
- 100% reported using a **computer**
- 92% had **Internet access** in office
- 50% used a **PDA**

Question 4 (slide 14)

What are the most common methods you use to find information to give to your patients?

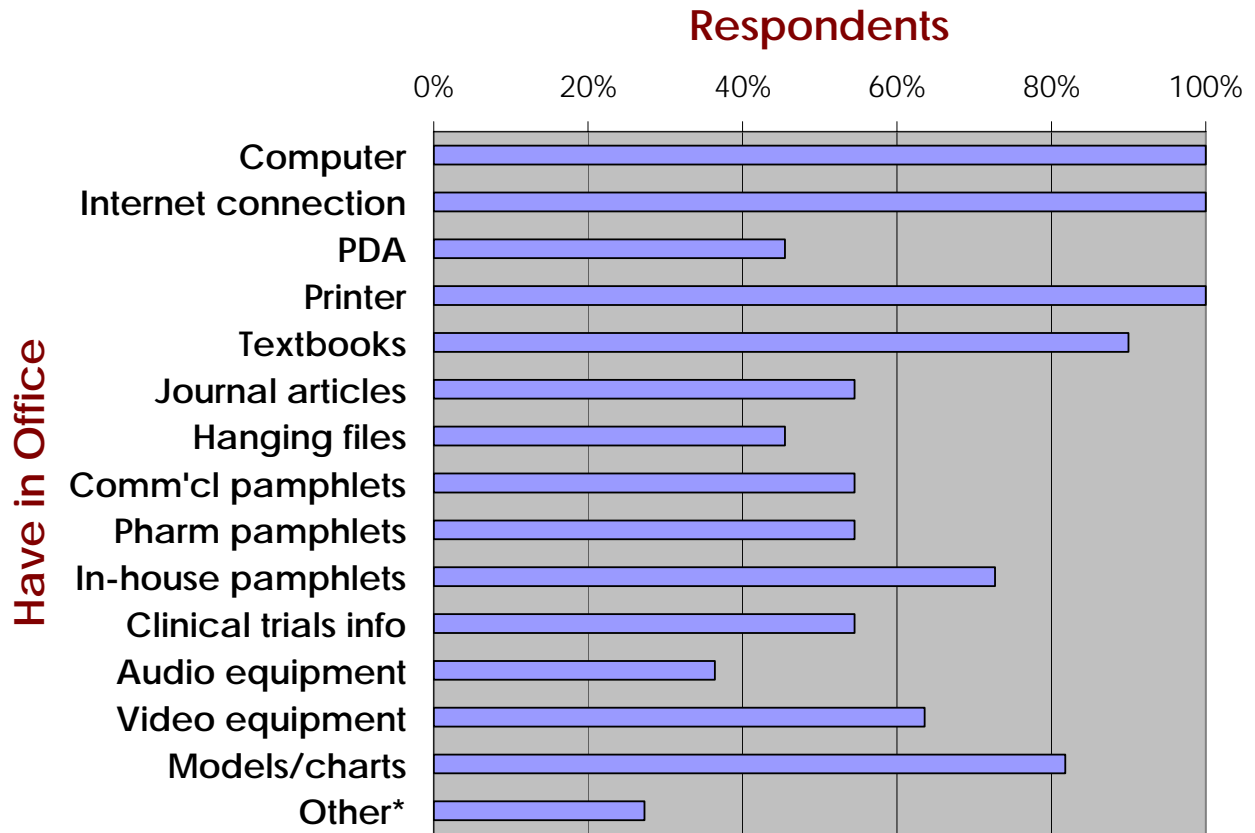


Question 5 (slide 15)



Question 7 (slide 17)

Physician report of information resources and tools in the clinical office setting.



*Other included:

- Nurse educators
- Professional organization pamphlets
- "We have PDA's but I have not found them useful. Too complex, inadequate instruction on use, and with computer readily available, not sure PDA helps."

Discussion (slide 22)

A caveat: this is *preliminary* work for a larger, *multi-modal study* to be undertaken in 2005 looking at primary care physicians who are participating in a research network affiliated with a newly-funded center for interventions and services research on late life mood disorders.

This was a test of a novel methodology and data collection method!

One reason for the study was to see if these physicians would be willing to answer a web-delivered questionnaire instead of a paper and pencil or telephone survey.

Another reason was to see if the categories of resources and tools were likely candidates for a larger survey to be conducted with added environmental scans.