

Worksheet for Evaluating Foraging Tools

This Table can be used to compare various Foraging Services, including newsletters and electronic services

Evaluating a sample of the foraging tool

Is the scope of the information limited to your specialty (is the information truly relevant?)?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Does it seem like the Service emphasizes new research findings that focuses on patient vs. disease-oriented outcomes (ie, POEMs)?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Is the information given a level of evidence or is a strength of recommendation supplied?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Does the Service seem to evaluate the validity of the information? Some clues to a validity assessment are listed below in the box.	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

Evaluating the system used by the Service to evaluate for validity and relevance

Most of this information will need to be obtained from the web site or supporting documentation

Does the Service have specific criteria for designating what types and sources of research are used?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
If yes, does the Service have specific criteria for distinguishing between patient and disease-oriented outcomes?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Does the Service have specific criteria for evaluating research and including research only of a certain quality?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

Other information

What is the cost for individuals? \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____

How does the Service deliver the information?
 Paper Web Paper Web Paper Web Paper Web

How frequently is the information provided?
 _____ _____ _____ _____

Is the Service coordinated with a high quality hunting tool quickly? (ie, not just an index -- see hunting tool worksheet)
 Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No

Acceptable indicators of a validity assessment include:

- Therapy:* a) randomization; b) control group; c) intention to treat analysis; d) blind outcomes evaluation; e) concealed allocation assignment
- Diagnosis:* a) gold standard specified; b) blind interpretation of test results; c) description of study population; d) consecutive enrollment
- Prognosis:* a) inception cohort; b) adequate follow-up; c) blind assessment of outcomes; d) description of referral pattern

- Decision/Cost analysis:* a) inclusion of important strategies/outcomes; b) explicit methods for combining probabilities; c) credible costs/utilities; d) sensitivity analysis
- Reviews:* a) specific search methods using EB source; b) specific study inclusion criteria; c) independent assessment of review and evaluation; d) discussion of publication bias; e) homo-heterogeneity of results