



Consent form

You are invited to participate in a research study entitled: The METR:IQ Study: Assessing the quality of emergency medicine and critical care blogs

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Purpose(s) and Objective(s) of the Research:

- This study will assess the evaluation of blog posts on emergency medicine and critical care topics to determine how medical students, emergency medicine residents, and emergency medicine attendings can best evaluate these resources.

Procedures:

- Participation in the study will require you to evaluate 20 blog posts on emergency medicine and critical care topics using your gestalt and previously developed evaluation tools. It is anticipated that completion of all of the evaluations will take approximately 4 hours. Participants will be given the opportunity to stop and restart the survey at a later time / date following the evaluation of each of the 20 blog posts. Participants will have a one month period to evaluate all 20 blog posts.
- Please feel free to ask the study authors any questions regarding the procedures and goals of the study or your role.

Funded by:

- This research project has not received any funding.

Potential Risks:

- There are no known or anticipated risks to you by participating in this research.

Potential Benefits:

- Individual participants may benefit through increased knowledge of the topics discussed in the 20 blog posts and a greater understanding of how blog posts can be evaluated.
- Participants who rank all of the websites will have their contribution acknowledged as a 'Contributor' to the study on the <http://metriqstudy.org> website and in any publications resulting from this research
- The results of this study will provide validity evidence for the use of the available blog post evaluation tools by medical students, emergency medicine residents, and emergency medicine attendings. It is anticipated that this will guide the quality evaluation of online resources such as blogs both within this field and other areas of medical education.

Confidentiality:

- Identifiable information (e.g. participant demographics) will be initially be stored securely on the Fluid Surveys website. Following the extraction of this data identifying information will be dissociated from the rest of the data and stored on password-protected, encrypted computer files on a USB key held in a locked filing cabinet.
- All data will be presented in aggregate.
- All data will be deleted 5 years after the completion of the study.

Right to Withdraw:

- Your participation is voluntary and you can answer only those questions that you are comfortable with. You may withdraw from the research project for any reason, at any time without explanation or penalty of any sort.
- Whether you choose to participate or not will have no effect on your position [e.g. employment, class standing, access to services] or how you will be treated.
- Participants may withdraw from the study prior to the analysis of the data. After this time, it is possible that some form of research dissemination will have already occurred. Should you wish to withdraw before this date, your data will be deleted.

Follow up:

- To obtain results from the study, please return to the <http://metriqstudy.org> website. Information on research presentations and journal publications of the results will be maintained there.

Questions or Concerns:

- Contact the researcher(s) using the information at the top of page 1;
- This research project has been deemed exempt from the need for ethical approval by the University of Saskatchewan Research Ethics Board. Any questions regarding your rights as a participant may be addressed to that committee through the Research Ethics Office ethics.office@usask.ca 1 (306) 966-2975. Out of town participants may call toll free 1 (888) 966-2975.

Consent Form

- A copy of this consent form can be downloaded from the following link (please click on the link or paste it into your browser's address bar):

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/i75cq8h8dxecb8r/The%20METRIQ%20Study%20Consent%20Form.pdf?dl=0>

Consent

Entering your signature below indicates that you have read and understand the description provided, have had an opportunity to ask questions, and those questions have been answered to your satisfaction. You consent to participate in the research project.

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