Assignment 5: Health Decision Aid Document (40 pts)

Group assignment.

Description:

This assignment serves as the capstone project to the course and incorporates elements of the field research assignment and patient narrative assignment in order to create a health decision aid. Health decision aids are rhetorical documents that are commonly used by physicians, physician assistants, and nurses to help communicate, inform, and guide the patient decision making process. These are highly designed and rhetorically effective documents that walk patients through a series of narratives, tools (such as quizzes and ranking systems), and information to assist patients in making the most informed decision regarding their health.

Purpose:

The goal of this assignment is for students: (1) to practice communicating health/medical information using clear and accessible language; (2) to explore how documents are rhetorical and that when designed well can guide patient decision making; and (3) to consider how patient narratives can be used to inform health decision-making. Creating a health decision aid requires health research around a specific decision, the gathering of a patient narrative, visual document design, and user testing. As a complex document to effectively create, this assignment is a group project and will require teamwork and communication (just as real-world health decision aids are created).

Below, a Healthwise decision aid shows how a patient might review the facts to decide whether to see their doctor about acne:

<u>Assessment</u> of this project will include consideration of the following criteria:

Meeting the *purpose* of the health decision aid:
- Decision aid presents well-documented, evidence-based guidance using clear language
- Authoring team makes choices that strengthen appeals to a specific patient population (audience)
- Authoring team created effective materials that embrace concepts of shared decision-making

Producing a high-quality health decision aid:
- Narrative elements are used to construct an effective patient narrative relevant to the decision presented
- Features of explanatory medical writing/jargon are used effectively
- Decision making moves (conceptual info, options & probabilities, process & intended outcomes) are used effectively
- Visual rhetoric strategies are used effectively

Engaging in the *process* of creating a health decision aid:
- Team used peer review cycles, conference with Maria & user testing to improve DA quality
- Team members provided helpful feedback to other authoring teams (often through user testing)

Steps:

Step 1:   *Familiarizing oneself with the DA via the reading & podcast*

Step 2:   *Assembling teams to brainstorm the health topic/decision & outline/storyboard*

Step 3:   *Create a project proposal (out of class; use this time to meet with your team)*

Step 4:   *Discuss the team's project proposal and discuss the outline/storyboard in class*

Step 5:   *Bring completed storyboard to team conferences with Maria for feedback.*

Step 6:   *Bring in mockup of aid; Maria will overview on visual design techniques to incorporate in the health decision aids*

Step 7:   *Discuss & develop user testing criteria (in class)*

Step 8:   *User testing in class on students (in class)*

Step 9:   *User testing on patient population (out of class)*

Step 10:   Bring to class summaries of your user testing results

Step 11:   Bring in final draft of health decision aid to present to class

Final Deliverables:
- Completed health Decision Aid
- A letter written collectively as a team addressing: (1) the visual design elements you incorporated, (2) a summary of your user testing results and revisions that you made, and (3) any unpredicted challenges that Maria should know about
- An individual letter submitted by each team member addressing the labor they did on the project, what they are proud of related to the project, what they wish they had more time or information to correct, and any issues related laboring as a team project