

Meeting Information Needs in Celiac Disease Patients: An Examination of patient resources from BC's Health Authorities

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Abstract: Introduction: This work has been undertaken to assess the degree to which patients with celiac disease (CD) in British Columbia are able to fulfill their information needs in order to self-manage their daily decision-making. **Literature Review:** Performed to establish the ongoing information needs of patients with CD. Few studies of CD patients information needs have been conducted. Patients were found to have a wide range of information needs related to their condition, including types of gluten-free foods, complications resulting from CD, and access to peer support groups. **Scope and rationale:** The province's regional health authorities' websites were examined for resources that cover the information needs of CD patients. The intention of this study was to estimate how many of these patients' information needs are covered by health authority websites and how easy it is to locate and retrieve the desired information. **Methods:** A list was gathered of provincial health authorities and provincially-operated health services. Searches and browsing were performed on each authority's website to gather the available patient-facing resources. These results were coded according to which information needs they fulfilled. **Recommendations:** Based on resources found that meet patients' information needs a list of recommendations were made so that these needs may be more broadly covered. **Conclusions:** Few resources were found to be specifically written for people with CD, and several recommendations from the literature were found to be unmet. The research concludes that BC's health authorities should work with health librarians to expand their resources to correct these shortcomings.