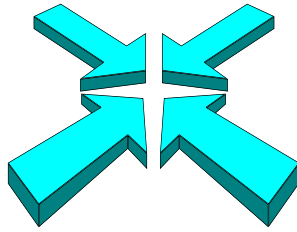


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DISCUSSION PAPER – PROCESS FOR REVIEW OF RESOURCES FOR ACF WEBSITE

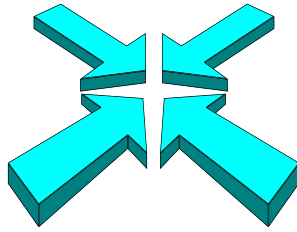
The following discussion paper has been developed to assist the Curriculum Development and Learning Resource Working Party (CDLWP) members to consider the review process for resources identified for inclusion on the Curriculum Website. A number of options have been listed and ideally the review process will consist of a combination of a number of these processes. In addition, issues have been identified that will need to be considered by members prior to choosing a review process for recommendation to the National Steering Group.

PURPOSE OF REVIEW OF RESOURCES

The purposes of a process to review resources include:

1. The provision of a quality barrier in determining what goes into the catalogue. The quality of each resource needs to be assessed in terms of
 - fitness for purpose – i.e. does the resource have clear learning objectives relevant to PGY1 and PGY2 doctors and is able to achieve these learning objectives,
 - evidence of current best practice,
 - development based on evidence if available, and
 - acceptability by end users.
2. Credibility of the resources as legitimate educational tools.
3. Provision of reassurance to end users both educators and junior doctors
4. Consistency and standardisation.

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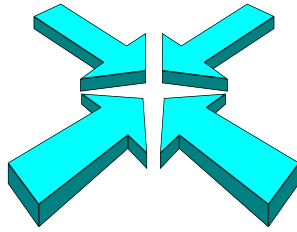


POTENTIAL METHODOLOGY

The following list of potential approaches to the methodology for review of resources is drawn from standard quality accreditation systems/methodologies. As previously stated the ideal solution will probably consist of a combination of these.

1. Use of the Catalogue entry process as a filter. The required fields developed for the catalogue entry can be used to filter out many providers of low quality educational resources as they will be unable to complete certain aspects of the data entry. Essential components of required fields would need to include but not be limited to:
 - mapping to ACFJD
 - clear learning objectives
 - target audience
2. Development of an additional component to the data entry for the catalogue which asks for information related to the process for development of the educational resource. This additional information would not necessarily be seen by the end users but be used to highlight need for further examination of the resource. Additional information could be asked regarding:
 - evidence base – how are they confident that it is based on best practice e.g. literature review conducted, appropriate level of evidence cited and/or based on published clinical guidelines where appropriate
 - peer review –the resource has already had a review by panel of experts and/or they were involved in the design
 - evaluation of the resource e.g. pilot process undertaken, evaluation pending
 - education experience or qualifications of personnel involved in the design and development of the resource.
3. Next level of review may involve any or all of the following:
 - Self assessment against standards. The standards and guidelines would need to be developed however the advantages of this methodology would be that it is fast and easy to complete and it requires resource developers to be self evaluative. The disadvantages are that there may be poor self assessment.
 - User community star rating system. This would see users logging in to rate resources against standards. The advantages of this system is that it would promote user 'buy-in' and the standards/criteria for evaluation would in themselves be educative for the users. The disadvantages may be that without clear criteria this may become a popularity vote and that there could be a lack of people participating in this activity so insufficient information gained.

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The working party discussed alternate methodology for review of resources including; the use of a review/editorial panel who moderate and approve resources and a process for accreditation of providers similar to the RACGP process. These methodologies, whilst acknowledged as providing additional rigour in the review of resources, were not considered practicable on the grounds of logistics and funding.

The working party determined to reserve the right to refer resources for independent review should this be deemed necessary.

ADDITIONAL ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF A REVIEW SYSTEM

1. What will be the process for review of resources over time? Will there be a need for annual review by resource providers or will resources have an automatic deletion date? This will be particularly important in areas of medicine with rapidly changing information. The JMOs themselves will be potentially a good source of identifying outdated material.

The working party determined that all resources included within the catalogue would be required to be reviewed by the authors after 12 months. In the example of a resource with high user rating but the original author is no longer available for review of the resource, (e.g. a grant had been given to develop the resource and it is now concluded), CPMEC would identify the requirement for review and seek the appropriate funding/personnel to complete the review of the resource. Resources would also be tagged as reviewed or not reviewed so that users were aware that resources had not undergone annual review. The list of non reviewed resources would be provided to CPMEC annually for consideration.

2. The intent of the website was that there would be ability to load local resources e.g. self assessment tools against the curriculum. There is a need to ensure that the website functionality allows both national and local resource requirements.
3. Medicolegal implications of endorsed resources should be considered by the NSG prior to implementation of the catalogue.