

Checklist

of the German Health News Review: Medien-Doktor

1

Positive Effects (Benefits)

Is the benefit described in absolute figures? How is the potential benefit presented?

2

Risks and Side Effects

Are risks and side effects presented and how are they presented? Are the frequency and severity of these stated?

3

Availability

Is a therapy or test/product/procedure already available? Does the article state in which phase of development it currently is?

4

Alternatives

Are alternatives to the presented therapy/test/product/procedure mentioned?

5

Costs

Are costs addressed in the story? Are there estimates from experts about the expected price?

6

Disease Exaggeration/Invention

Are there no signs of disease exaggeration/invention? ("Disease mongering")

7

Documentation/ Evidence

Does the article attempt to explain the quality of the evidence?

8

Experts/Transparency of Sources

Does the article cite or mention another, independent source?

9

Conflicts of Interest

Are there any (especially financial) conflicts of interest for the experts mentioned in the article?

10

Context

Are aspects such as novelty or ethics addressed in the article?

11

Factual Accuracy

Does the article accurately reflect the essential facts?

12

Journalistic Contribution (more than press material)

Does the article go beyond the press material?

13

Attractiveness

Is the topic presented in an appealing and attractive language?

14


Comprehensibility

Is the article understandable for a lay audience?

15


Choice of Topic

Is the topic new, relevant or original?


**Further information
 can be found here**



health-specific
criteria


 general
journalistic
criteria