

Multimedia Appendix 2. Overview of the scales used in the study

Construct	Items	Response options	Source
Online health information seeking	- How often do you get health information from the Internet?	5-point scale (Less than once a month – Every day)	-
Trust in the Internet as a source of health information	- How much do you trust health information from the Internet?	5-point scale (Not at all – Very much)	-
Attitudes towards the adoption of ICTs for health purposes	- I am in favor of using the Internet for health-related purposes - I am in favor of using social media (e.g., Facebook or Twitter) for health-related purposes	7-point scale (Strongly disagree – Strongly agree)	-
Use of Internet searching strategies	In order to find health information on the Internet you usually do the following: - use a site that my physician recommended - follow links that appear on websites - ask questions in forums - use my Favorites list - use a site that a friend recommended	5-point scale (Never – Always)	[10]
Perceived outcomes of seeking health information by surfing the net	Do you agree or disagree that seeking health information on the Internet... - improved your ability to manage your health needs - enabled you to ask your physician questions resulting from the information you acquired on the Internet - enabled you to show your physician the information that you retrieved - raised your sense of power in your encounter with the physician - improved your understanding of the symptoms, conditions, or treatments in which you were interested - updated your knowledge in health innovations - led you to take independent steps (such as seeing a specialist, or	5-point scale (Strongly disagree – Strongly agree)	[10, 28]

	<p>changing an exercise regimen or eating habits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enabled you to think about alternative treatment options; and made you more aware of patients' insurance rights 		
Use of Internet evaluation criteria	<p>How important are the 5 following criteria in judging a website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the purpose of the site is clearly stated and the information is accurate - it has a reliable source; a contact is available for questions/comments/help - retrieval is easy and can be done in a timely manner - the scope of information suits my needs 	5-point scale (Not at all important – Very important)	[29]
Predisposition towards eHealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How useful do you feel the Internet is in helping you in making decisions about your health? - How important is it for you to be able to access health resources on the Internet? 	5-point scale (Not at all useful/important – Very useful/important)	[7]
