Collection Development Policy for the Health Information Library- 2011

Introduction:

The Health Information Library located in the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine’s (UTGSM) Preston Medical Library (PML) at the University of Tennessee Medical Center (UTMC) collects materials as part of the PML outreach mission and in alignment with UTMC’s mission to serve through healing, education, and discovery. The library and hospital work together to enhance the hospital’s goal of patient-centered care and educational support of patients. The Health Information Library’s primary mission is to make quality consumer level health information available for patients, patient families, and area citizens.

Although the library maintains an assorted and diverse collection of medical resources, the library reflects the needs of patients by focusing its collections on the hospital’s Centers of Excellence and several of the major diseases of Tennessee residents. The UTMCK Centers of Excellence include The Brain and Spine Institute, Cancer Institute, Emergency and Trauma Service, Heart Lung Vascular Institute, and The Women’s and Children’s Center. The leading causes of death of Tennesseans include the following: heart disease, malignant neoplasm (cancer), chronic respiratory diseases, cerebrovascular diseases (stroke), Alzheimer’s disease and diabetes mellitus. The library makes an effort to include recent and applicable health information regarding both these Centers of Excellence and prevalent diseases in addition to the general consumer health information collection.

The Health Information Library provides a free Consumer and Patient Health Information Service, a public education service of the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine in cooperation with the University of Tennessee Medical Center but does not provide interpretation of that information or interpretation of diagnoses, medical tests, treatments, symptoms, or any similar service that should be provided by a physician.

Selection:

Selection occurs as the library needs new materials or updates materials with newer editions. This selection policy applies to consumer health books, magazines/journals, brochures, and audiovisual resources. The Reference Coordinator/Assistant Director for Public Services is responsible for the selection of the consumer health collection. The Library Director approves the list and makes final determinations regarding any disputed materials. The library selects materials based on a combination of criteria.
The selection criteria include the following:

- Information accuracy
- Date of publication (generally within three years)
- Cost of material
- Patron and medical staff recommendation
- Reputation of publisher
- Reading level
- Representation of material (lack of bias)
- Author reliability and status in the field
- Application to patrons’ health needs including, but not limited to
  1. Direct relation to patient needs addressed by UTMC’s Centers of Excellence
  2. Direct relation to most prevalent diseases of Tennesseans
- For audiovisual materials, the necessary equipment to use them within the library

**Gifts and Donations:**

The Health Information Library will accept gifts and donations. These items will be subject to the selection criteria above. Any gift or donation that does not meet selection criteria will be donated to another library.

**Maintenance:**

The library seeks to maintain materials that are current and frequently circulated, and therefore reviews the collection on a yearly basis. The criteria used to determine selection is also used for collection maintenance. The Reference Coordinator/Assistant Director for Public Services provides or supervises collection maintenance.

**Promotion:**

The collection will be promoted through book displays pertaining to overall patient needs, national health observances, or new materials. Librarians will also promote the consumer health collection to medical staff during library orientations so that they may encourage patients to view the collection. The library will also provide programming during hospital free medical screenings and during other events.