

DIPEX

Health Experiences
Research Group

A major qualitative research programme on experience of health and illness

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NHS

National Institute for Health Research
School for Primary Care research

(1) **Aims**

- **To understand people's experiences of health and illness, their information and support needs**
- **To help meet those needs by disseminating through public web sites**
www.healthtalkonline.org and **www.youthhealthtalk.org** run by the DIPEX Charity
- Developing teaching and training resources for professionals

(2) **Methods**

- Social science informed qualitative interviews and analysis.
- Diverse sampling, 30-50 interviews per condition.
- Narrative interviews, video and audio recorded.
- Overseen by expert advisory panels, including users, clinicians, academics and voluntary sector.

(3) **Teaching topics**

- Breaking bad news
- Communication
- Living with dying

(4) **Website topics including ...**

- How the condition affects lives
- Messages to Health Professionals
- Telling the family
- Coping at work, school, college
- What it is like to be diagnosed
- Making treatment choices
- Talking to Doctors
- Financial consequences
- Side effects
- Relationships and sex life

(5) **Conditions now covered**

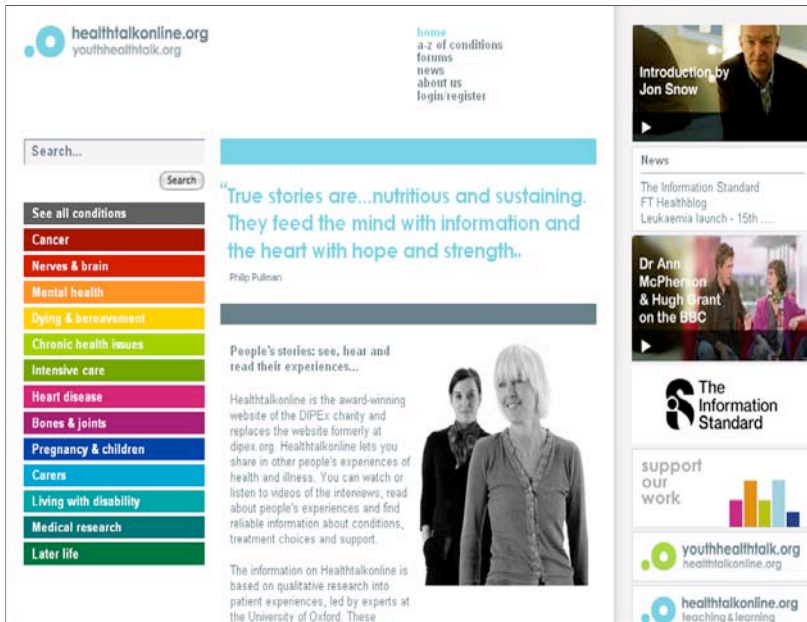
- Cancers
- Chronic health issues
- Heart disease
- Living with a disability
- Pregnancy and children
- Living with dying
- Mental Health
- Neurological
- Intensive Care

(6) **International collaborations – DIPEX International**

Sister projects in Japan, Germany, Spain, South Korea, Australia

(7) **70+ Peer reviewed academic papers**

- Humour and illness
- Masculinity and depression
- HIV and spirituality
- Cancer and internet
- Prosthesis decisions
- Understanding Ductal Carcinoma In Situ
- Involvement in choices

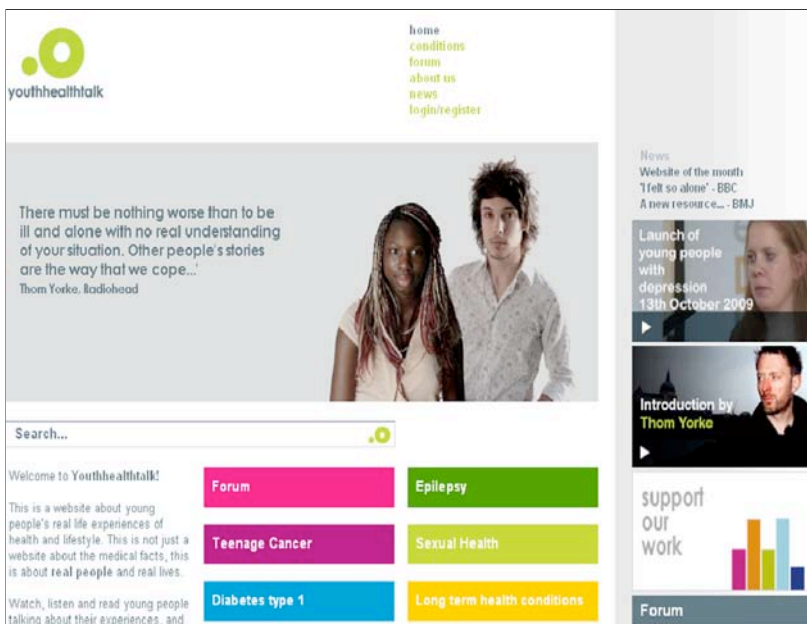


A. “What a wonderful website! After being told today I need to have a radical hysterectomy, I found this website very comforting. While waiting for my test results, I read other sites, but found the information too technical and frightening. This site deals with ‘real’ people and the problems and worries they have.”

Sam,
a healthtalkonline.org user

B. “The site is an excellent resource which has easily accessible, high quality material, which is ideal for preparing medical students for their meeting with real patients. It has proved an invaluable addition to their early Patient Contact Course. This year virtually all of our 350 first year medical students used the website, and the reports that they produced demonstrated clearly that observing the interviews with patients had added a really positive dimension to their thinking about patients’ experiences, and their own interviewing approach. It really is a fantastic resource.”

Dr Adrian Raby,
Chadburn Lecturer ,
Department
of Primary Care and Social Sciences,
Imperial College, London



The School for Primary Care Research is a partnership between the Universities of Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Manchester and Oxford, and is part of the National Institute of Health Research.