

## Surveying bloggers

March 14, 2007

No one really knows exactly how many medical blogs exist.

The "Taking the Pulse of the Healthcare Blogosphere," a survey of 214 health care bloggers released in December by the New York City-based Envision Solutions, found:

- 61% of respondents to the survey, conducted between July 31 and Sept. 29, write about personal experiences.
- Nearly 40% report the most important reason they started blogging was to share opinions and educate others.
- 39% hide their identities to protect patient confidentiality or themselves.

### Excerpts from blogs

- "Last week, I told my Sunday School class that one of the ways I get through difficult patient situations is to pretend the patient is Jesus. And that he's testing me. Don't wanna make Jesus angry, so I behave myself appropriately."

-- <http://fatdoctor.blogspot.com>

- "Just got this call today at the office: 'Can I have sex with my catheter in?' We told him no, but what I really wanted to say was: 'If you can actually convince your wife to engage in sexual intercourse with your catheter still in, then be my guest, and let me know how it went.' "

-- <http://urostream.blogspot.com>

- "Today, in clinic, there were chances to aspirate blood from a guy's ear related to his wrestling hobby and suturing a walk-in lacerated finger. Yet, once again, I was relegated to 'assistant' while the residents added one more notch on their belts. My annoyance at the situation was well controlled, but damn if I didn't feel like an idiot standing there. ..."

-- <http://creatingthegodcomplex.blogspot.com>

- "I tried to coerce the 3rd year resident who performed the needle aspiration to let me have the privilege. He didn't budge. It was funny, though, to see the two second year residents, later in the afternoon, argue over who could take the finger lac and who'd see the patient with urination symptoms. They almost sounded like me."

-- <http://creatingthegodcomplex.blogspot.com>

- "Neuroradiology is just radiology of the brain and spine. Now that we're all on the same page ... what's up with this field? I have been on this rotation for 5 days and have worked a total of 8 hours ... and by 'worked' I mean sat in a chair and listened to the radiologists talk to each other. I show up (although I guarantee they wouldn't notice if I was absent) and listen to the attending and resident read films. All I do is I sit behind them and try to stay awake."

-- <http://axisdeviation.blogspot.com/>

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