American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

www.ACOEM.org

This is the website of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), which represents >5000 physicians and other health care professionals specializing in the field of occupational and environmental medicine (OEM).

The site includes a wealth of occupational medical information. Not surprising it focuses primarily on the practice of occupational medicine in the USA. Some of the content is for members only, although this does not detract from the usefulness of the site to other visitors. There is a consistent theme about evidence-based and quality-based medical practice throughout the site.

The site provides several resources that are likely to be of general interest to occupational physicians including

(i) guidelines,
(ii) consensus statements,
(iii) evidence-based statements,
(iv) a search facility,
(v) helpful OEM links and
(vi) recommended library.

The Policies and Position Statements section accessible from the home page is perhaps the most useful part of the website for UK-based non-members. It contains a summary of the various consensus opinions, evidence-based statements and guidelines. The evidence-based statements date from 1998 and include many areas of
topical practice including spirometry, automated external defibrillators in the workplace, silica, noise-induced hearing loss, indoor moulds and a recently produced statement on pertussis vaccination for health care workers. Guidelines include the prevention of work disability and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in the workplace.

The search facility accessible from the home page produces links to ACOEM material relevant to the searched subject. These might include press statements, journal articles (some full text), guidelines or evidence-based statements.

The site is free to access with no need for registration. The graphics and presentation are of high quality and navigation around the site is quick and easy. The only drawback is the restriction of some of the information to members only.

In summary, this is a well presented, easy to use site that provides access to some very useful and practical OEM material. A recommended link to the Society of Occupational Medicine was particularly pleasing to see!

Scores
Access speed = 5
Speed of searches = 5
User friendliness = 4
Links to other websites = 4
Overall score = 4

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