

Is Dr. Google Ill-Informed?

OPEN LETTER TO ERIC SCHMIDT - EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF ALPHABET

Dear Sir:

This is an open letter that I am writing to you on behalf of www.ask-the-professor.com.

Google is certainly one of the most renowned companies worldwide, and its services are frequently used for searching information. It is most disturbing, however, that Google's medical information is not only confusing for readers but also causing possible harm with its incorrect and misleading information for people looking for trustworthy advice and medical help.

On its US website, Google recommends people with **type-2 diabetes to take aspirin for self-treatment**. These, like other recommendations, are given without any further comment or qualification.

The more than 70 professors from ask-the-professor.com would be happy to tell you about how to provide medical information that people can trust, as is mandatory in this field. Each of our professors is a specialist in his field and gives answers to the most frequently asked questions on a multitude of health problems.

We strongly feel that people reading Google's medical texts should be warned and advised to refrain from blindly following the suggestions given there. It is hard to believe your note that these texts are read and authorized by an average of 11 physicians. For cases of **influenza, for example, self-medication with antihistamines** is advised. Such recommendations may be justified in individual cases but are not only inappropriate but positively dangerous in many others.

How you proceed with this content in the US is entirely up to you. My advice to you is to take it offline immediately for review and, in addition, to consider adopting a new editorial process altogether. Please do Europe the favor of not publishing this kind of medical information here until it has been properly checked for trustworthy content.

See how beautifully you could explain subjects of this kind here: www.ask-the-professor.com/for_eric

Have a healthy and successful day!

Sincerely yours,

Werner Scherbaum

W.A. Scherbaum, MD., Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus, University of Düsseldorf

Editor-in-Chief, ask-the-professor.com