Table 1 Checklist to judge the general quality of health websites originating in Gulf Cooperation Council countries based on Health On the Net (HON) Foundation principles, and number of sites meeting checklist criteria, November–December 2012 (*n* = 925)

HON code of conduct principle	Internet health website credibility checklist (authors)	Checklist (yes/no) explanation	Sites meeting checklist criteria	
			No.	%
1. Authoritative	Authorship	Are identities and qualifications of authors revealed?	25	2.7
2. Complementarity	Complementarity	Is there a statement that information should not replace professional consultation?	112	12.1
3. Privacy	Privacy policy	Is a privacy policy displayed?	93	10.1
4. Attribution	Date	Is the website information dated?	541	58.5
5. Justifiability	Justifiability	Are medical claims/benefits backed by cited, peer-reviewed evidence?	33	7.2
6. Transparency	Contact details	Are email, webform, telephone or surface mail contact details displayed?	746	80.6
7. Financial disclosure	Sponsorships	Are funding sources identified?	217	23.5
8. Advertising policy	Advertising policy	Is an advertising policy displayed?	16	1.7
All		Sites with all features	5	0.5