

HOW TO FACT CHECK SOCIAL MEDIA

In 2017, social media is the main source of news and information for many of us. We trust our friends and connections and therefore trust the information that they post. However, not everything that is being re-posted is correct. When your child is sick with a liver disease, reading the wrong story at the wrong time can cause more upset and confusion than you need. As much as possible, take the time to fact check the things you read online, that way you will know if the information really relates to your situation.



FACT OR OPINION?

Does a link from a Facebook post go to an opinion piece written by a non-clinical person or a peer reviewed article from an experienced clinician or specialist medical facility?

NUMBER OF LIKES, SHARES AND TWEETS

The number of times a story or article has been shared, liked or retweeted, does not make the content more truthful.



CHECK THE SOURCE

Use Google to establish the truth of the story. Check if a search result brings up other versions of the story or site which will confirm the content.

CHECK THE IMAGE

Upload images to Google Images to double check original location and date of images. Tragic pictures may not always relate to the story you have read.



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

If the story or experience is not from Australia, be wary. Different healthcare systems have different treatments, outcomes and issues of affordability.