TESTING AND MAINTENANCE OF THE MENU EVAL PLUS

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BACKGROUND

Menu Eval Plus is a web-based software developed to speed-up calculation of estimated energy and nutrient content and percentage contribution of recipes and menus or meals. Following the development process is the beta-site testing and maintenance of the software which is made available to users for testing in their work stations or at home.

OBJECTIVES

The study aimed to test and maintain the functionality of the Menu Eval Plus and gather feedback from users for further enhancements.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Functionality was monitored based on the data entry (input) and nutrient evaluation (output) of the software. Communication system was created to facilitate feedback between users and software developers. It was managed by the project team through the use of an administrator account. Comments and inquiries were immediately addressed. A module was prepared for the training-workshop on nutrient evaluation of meals using this software for use of nutritionist-dietitians, food service operators, students and individuals to evaluate their own recipes and menus.

RESULTS

Menu Eval Plus was tested and maintained during its first year of implementation. The software registered 100,743 hits since the time it was launched in February 2016. Module for the conduct of training using the software was tested among the nutritionist-dietitians and food service workers of the Department of Social Welfare and Development-IVA (DSWD) feeding centers. The training received an adjectival rating of very satisfactory (4.82). Among the participants’ positive feedback on the software were its user-friendly features and fast result of nutrient evaluation.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The functionality of the Menu Eval Plus was tested and maintained. Feedback scheme served as communication system between administrator and users. Training module developed was made for easy understanding of the software’s extensive use. It is recommended that continuous testing and maintenance be done to ensure its functionality. Administrators are recommended to provide timely response to users’ inquiries.