

## The Term 'Endorse' Should Not Be Used Clinically



*To the Editor:*

In the case presentation of their article “Occam’s Razor for Severe B12 deficiency”<sup>1</sup>, Moss, et al., use the phrase “did not endorse any recent outdoor activities such as hiking”. I believe that they mean that she had not done that activity, but the word “endorse” is not the correct word to state this.

I have noticed the word “endorse” misused in medical settings over the last few years. Endorse means to sign a check or to support an idea, political position or candidate, and does not have anything to do with a patient’s symptoms.

When a clinician says “the patient endorses chest pain”, they are saying that the patient thinks that chest pain is a good idea, not that the patient is experiencing it.

The word “endorse” should be removed from clinical lexicon.

Ronald D. Reynolds, MD, FAAFP  
*Adjunct Professor of Family  
Medicine, University of Cincinnati  
College of Medicine, Cincinnati,  
OH*

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### Reference

1. Moss C, Patil DT, Connell NT, Zon RL, Barkoudah E. Occam’s Razor for Severe B12 Deficiency. *AJM* 2022;135(7):844–7.

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Requests for reprints should be addressed to Ronald D. Reynolds, MD, FAAFP, Adjunct Professor of Family Medicine, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, OH.

E-mail address: [ron.reynolds@uc.edu](mailto:ron.reynolds@uc.edu)