ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT
SAMPLE

Prepared by Blend Interactive
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INTRODUCTION

The following document pulls together all necessary issues requiring attention in order to make the current sample website accessible according to the requirements of the Section 508 Amendment to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which correspond with WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) 2.0 Conformance to a level of AA.

We discuss action items in this document as required (conforms to AA) and as optional, but suggested (conforms to AAA). These determinations are dictated by WCAG 2.0.

Anything beyond AA at this point is not legally required, but in the future could become something of note. We recommend going to the full limit in accessibility updates in order to be ready for future changes and adaptations to the Section 508 guidelines.

NOTE ON SCOPE

For this audit, we performed research on each unique content type. **We did not crawl every single page**, though we have mentioned some editorial issues that will require a full site content audit to update. This is something that can be handled whenever your organization performs a periodic content audit.

This document does not handle items outside of the "www" domain.

HOW TO USE THIS

Each page/content type will include both any required task and the corresponding WCAG checklist reference. In some cases (such as a missing form field label) there will be multiple corresponding checklist references, but we will simply refer to the one that is closest to the issue.

Some items in this document are suggested, not required. These will be labeled as such - they do not require action at this time, but may be worth taking care of in the future. Additionally, some items in this document go beyond front-end or structural development - they are instead editorial. These will need to be updated within the content editor itself.

SITE WIDE - Structural

The following accessibility issues are common across all templates and are connected to site-wide issues, such as the site wrapper, site navigation, and footer content. This also includes common structural issues that are on a CSS level, rather than a template level.

Accessibility Basics

Missing "Skip to Content" link *- 2.4.1 - Bypass Blocks*

There is no skip to content link, requiring all users to tab through all top-level, utility, and eyebrow links in order to get to the content itself. A "Skip to Content" link is required for screen readers to skip the menu items on a page.

RECOMMENDATION: DEVELOPMENT - Add an invisible (or visible upon selection) "Skip to Content" link to allow users to move past the site surround level and into the actual page content.

Site Navigation

Site logo requires alt tag *- 1.1.1 Non-text Content*

The site logo requires an alt tag - in this case, the alt tag should say "Sample Website" it includes words that cannot be read.

RECOMMENDATION: DEVELOPMENT - Add alt tag to the main site logo.

Home page H1 should be the site title *- 2.4.6 - Headings and Labels*

The H1 on the home page of the site should be the site title, not the "Here it's different" tagline. This tagline can be moved to an H2.

RECOMMENDATION - DEVELOPMENT / EDITORIAL - For the home page only, move the H1 above the hero (hidden except from screen readers), and then editorially change the site tagline to an H2.

Focus not shown on main navigation or utility navigation when tabbing through *- 2.1.1 Keyboard*

When tabbing through both the utility navigation (besides Healthcare Professionals, which shows a focus state) and tabbing through the main navigation, no focus is shown.

RECOMMENDATION: DEVELOPMENT - Update site structure to include proper keyboard focus.

Footer

Footer logos need shorter alt tags that explain the link destination *- 1.1.1 Non-text Content*

The footer logos all have too-long alt text, and the alt text should describe the function of the image - in this case, linking to articles *about* the awards/accreditations, not specifically about the text and shape of the logo itself.

RECOMMENDATION: EDITORIAL - Update alt tags on footer logos (and all logos, essentially) to be more screen-reader friendly and descriptive of the link.

Footer link color contrast is too low *- 1.4.3 - Contrast [Minimum]*

In the footer, the grey links have a contrast ratio of 2.85:1, but requires a ratio of 4.5:1 due to its small size.

RECOMMENDATION: DEVELOPMENT - Update contrast colors for the Attribution style.

SITE-WIDE: Styles

Attribution style color contrast is too low - *1.4.3 - Contrast [Minimum]*

Within the WYSIWYG editor, the "Attribution" style has a contrast ratio of 3.96:1, but requires a ratio of 4.5:1 due to its small size. NOTE: the "Featured Copy" that is also included on these blocks is NOT a contrast issue.

RECOMMENDATION: DEVELOPMENT - Update contrast colors for the Attribution style.

Hero titles require better contrast - *1.4.3 - Contrast [Minimum]*

On all heroes, at times the title images may not be conducive to white text, as is shown on the example below. (NOTE: because these images are different per each page, this is not something that can be pulled from a contrast measurement tool and may not affect all backgrounds.)

Example: https://www.samplewebsite.com/doctors-and-departments/departments/orthopedics/

RECOMMENDATION: potentially either DEVELOPMENT or EDITORIAL - Editors can either make a point to make sure all images are dark enough to provide enough contrast for the title to show up correctly, or provide some kind of CSS-driven darkness behind the title to make it more readable despite the image.

Block Headings - *1.3.1 Info and Relationships*

Blocks on landing pages, such as the home page, jump from H4 to H2 to H3 depending on the block style.

RECOMMENDATION: EDITORIAL and DEVELOPMENT - Blocks should have a consistent title heading structure - our initial suggestion is that since blocks should have the same heading level for the title, regardless of design, so that landing pages such as the home page do not jump from H4 to H2.

Currently, blocks are not aligned in terms of headings - some blocks can change their heading level (these can be fixed editorially), while others are custom headings that are based on context and proximity (and cannot be updated editorially). Ultimately, this requires a high level of change in how headings are handled within blocks, and also an update to the number of blocks to create site-wide consistency in styles.

Eyebrow color contrast is too low *- 1.4.3 - Contrast [Minimum]*

Site-wide, the "eyebrow" and "heading-eyebrow" has a color contrast of 3.54:1, but requires a ratio of 4.5:1 due to its small size.

RECOMMENDATION: DEVELOPMENT - Update contrast colors for the "eyebrow" style.

SITE-WIDE - Editorial

Alt tags missing on some images *- 1.1.1 - Non-text Content*

Some images are missing alt tags, which is common. Our recommendations for alt tags include:

- **At least a blank alt tag on all images** (this allows a screen reader to ignore the image if it is decorative, which the vast majority of on-site images are.
- Alt text on any image that **clearly adds to content**
- Alt text on **any logos** (these are often not reference in the content, and require some level of visibility to understand)
- Alt text on **any images that include text**, including heading images that would otherwise be seen as decorative.

RECOMMENDATION: EDITORIAL - Review all pages and confirm alt tags are either present or listed as blank. Specifically confirm anything embedded into a WYSIWYG editor has either a tag or a blank tag.

All icons can be changed to a blank alt tag *- 1.1.1 - Non-text Content*

All icons currently have a very long descriptive alt tag, but in every case the alt tag is decorative to the actual title of the block.

RECOMMENDATION - EDITORIAL - Adjust the alt tag on all icons to be blank so there isn't any extraneous content for screen readers.

Redundant title text *- 2.4.4 - Link Purpose [In Context]*

For screen readers that read title text in addition to the actual navigational link, it's important to streamline links so they do not include extraneous title text. However, some places across the site include title text that is duplicated from the actual link text.

RECOMMENDATION: EDITORIAL - Review all pages and confirm title tags are not duplicated from the link text itself.

Downloadable PDFs Missing PDF Label *- 2.4.4 - Link Purpose [In Context]*

Screen readers and mobile users need to be informed when they are linking directly to a PDF. Across the site, most PDF links are missing a PDF warning. Example: https://www.samplewebsite.com/doctors-and-departments/departments/breathing-institute/tests2/

RECOMMENDATION: EDITORIAL - Review all pages and confirm that a PDF label is added to all links, or DEVELOPMENT - have a PDF icon (with "PDF Download" as an alt tag) added to all PDF links.