



# QUALITY HEALTH INFORMATION ON THE WEB

## A GUIDE FROM THE NATIONAL NETWORK OF LIBRARIES OF MEDICINE

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### National Library of Medicine Resources

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#### **PubMed: A free system to search MEDLINE®**

<http://pubmed.gov>

PubMed is the National Library of Medicine's newest way to access the world renowned MEDLINE database. The PubMed search system has been developed by the National Center for Biotechnology Information. It is available globally at no charge. PubMed:

- Provides an easy way to search the 11 million references and abstracts from 4,500 journals in the MEDLINE database.
- Links to over 2,000 journals for full text of articles (publishers may charge a fee).
- Builds upon simple search input and uses complex behind-the-scenes search algorithms to construct effective searches.
- Links to Loansome Doc service for article copying and delivery. Check with your medical library or call 1-800-338-7657 to find a library near you offering this service (libraries may charge a fee).
- Includes an online tutorial on the PubMed sidebar.

#### **MEDLINEplus – health information for consumers**

<http://medlineplus.gov>

MEDLINEplus, produced by the National Library of Medicine, provides the lay person with links to free authoritative and evaluated web sites from government agencies, associations, and universities. The site includes current health news, an extensive listing of health topics, interactive health tutorials, and authoritative patient drug information provided by the US Pharmacopoeia Convention. The latest information is available with links to pre-configured MEDLINE searches and to clinical trials. Also included are directories of health care providers, health facilities, and health science libraries that serve the public. Although designed for the general public, MEDLINEplus is useful for anyone who is beginning to investigate a health topic, including health professionals and students. A virtual tour is available at [www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/tour/tour.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/tour/tour.html).

#### **ClinicalTrials.gov**

<http://clinicaltrials.gov>

The National Library of Medicine has developed ClinicalTrials.gov to provide current information about clinical research studies to health care professionals, patients, family members and members of the public.

#### **NLM Gateway**

<http://gateway.nlm.nih.gov>

The NLM Gateway searches simultaneously the multiple resources of the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM). It allows users of NLM services to initiate searches from one Web interface, providing "one-stop searching" of many of NLM's information resources or databases.

#### **NIH Clinical Alerts and Advisories**

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/databases/alerts/clinical\\_alerts.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/databases/alerts/clinical_alerts.html)

Clinical alerts are provided to expedite the release of findings from the NIH-funded clinical trials where such release could significantly affect morbidity and mortality. They are also available on the PubMed sidebar.

## Electronic Journals

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### MLA Brandon-Hill Journal Links

<http://nml.gov/libinfo/ejournals/branhill.html>

This compilation, maintained by the Pacific Southwest Regional Medical Library, provides links to free electronic versions of the Medical Library Association's Brandon-Hill List of Journals. The MLA Brandon-Hill List is a selected list of journals for the small medical library and represents a basic group of clinical practice journals.

### PubMed/MEDLINE

<http://pubmed.gov>

PubMed will include an icon for the publisher if the full-text of the article is available online. You can either access the article (frequently for a fee) using the publisher icon. Or if your medical library participates in PubMed's LinkOut program, you can access the full-text of many articles through your medical library's icon. Check with your medical librarian for details.

## Other Resources

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### Community Health Status Indicators

<http://www.communityhealth.hrsa.gov>

This source provides health assessment information at the county level and is provided by the US Health Resources and Services Administration in cooperation with several local health associations.

### Consumer Drug Information

<http://www.fda.gov/cder/consumerinfo/default.htm>

This site from the Food and Drug Administration provides general information about newly approved prescription drugs. Since these drugs are so new, they may not yet be on the market.

### Food and Nutrition Information Center

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic>

The Food and Nutrition Information Center of the US Department of Agriculture collects and disseminates information about food and human nutrition. This site includes links to the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2000, the *Food Composition* tables from the USDA / ARS Nutrient Data Laboratory, and *The Food Guide Pyramid* booklet, among other resources.

### Healthy People

<http://www.health.gov/healthypeople>

Healthy People 2010 is a set of health objectives for the Nation to achieve over the first decade of the new century and serves as the prevention agenda for the United States. It is a statement of national health objectives designed to identify the most significant preventable threats to health and to establish national goals to reduce these threats. It can be used by many different people, States, communities, professional organizations, and others to help them develop programs to improve health.

### National Academy Press

<http://www.nap.edu>

Browse this site by topic or use the search engine to find full-text books on a variety of medical and public health topics published by the National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine.

### National Guideline Clearinghouse

<http://www.guideline.gov>

The NGC is a comprehensive public resource for evidence-based clinical practice guidelines and related documents. This project is a cooperative effort from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), in partnership with the American Medical Association and the American Association of Health Plans. The site includes a searchable database. In addition, the guidelines can be browsed by disease or condition, treatment or intervention, or organization. A unique feature is the ability generate side-by-side comparisons for any combination of two or more guidelines.

### National Women's Health Information Center

<http://www.4women.gov>

The NWHIC, a service provided by the Office on Women's Health of the US Department of Health and Human Services, serves as a gateway to a vast array of women's health information resources from government agencies and the private sector.