

MEDLINEplus for Migrant Farm Workers: Implications for Health Care Providers

Kay Deeny, MLS, AHIP, Heidi Thiessen Sandstrom, RN, PHN, MLIS
National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Pacific Southwest Region

Introduction

Migrant farm workers encounter a diverse variety of health problems including occupational illnesses and chronic diseases. (1) Finding high quality, plain-language, and reliable materials is challenging for health care workers who provide health care information to farm workers, their family members and friends. (2, 3) A useful tool for finding that information is the MEDLINEplus.gov web site, now also available in Spanish. This poster will highlight features of MEDLINEplus so that health care providers can meet the information needs of migrant farm workers. (4)



Focus of Study

Health care providers including community health workers, community health promoters, peer educators, and promotoras as well as nurses, physician assistants, and doctors provide health information to migrant farm workers. (5) Given the large number of health related web sites, it is difficult to choose quality web sites. (6) MEDLINEplus was created by the National Library of Medicine to make quality information easily accessible for individuals. MEDLINEplus is organized by health topics and currently includes information on over 590 topics. Other features include an illustrated medical encyclopedia, interactive health tutorials, a database of full-text drug information and the latest health news.



References

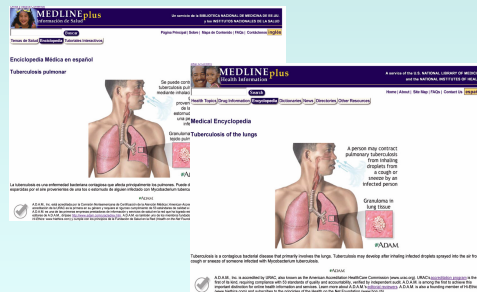
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Health Topics of Interest to Farm Workers

- Accidents
- Air Pollution
- Arsenic
- Asbestos/ Asbestosis
- Bites and Stings
- Dental Health
- Depression
- Diabetes
- Drinking Water
- Drug Abuse
- Environmental Health
- Farm Safety
- Food Contamination/ Poisoning
- Food Safety
- Hazardous waste
- Heat Illness
- Hispanic American Health
- Household Poisons
- Hypertension
- Hypothermia
- Indoor Air Pollution
- Infectious Diseases
- Insect Bites and Stings
- Molds
- Noise
- Occupational Health
- Pesticides
- Poisoning
- Respiratory Diseases
- Skin Diseases
- Safety
- Sun Exposure
- Tuberculosis
- Water Safety



Health news, links to government web sites, easy-to-read materials, interactive tutorials and links to MEDLINE searches are available.



Medical Encyclopedia

The adam.com medical encyclopedia brings health consumers an extensive library of medical images as well as over 4,000 articles about diseases, tests, symptoms, injuries, and surgeries.



Interactive Health Tutorials

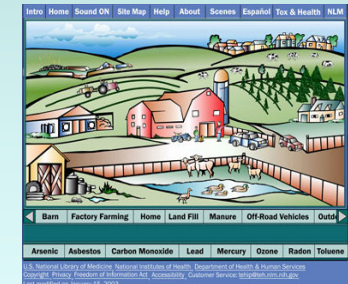
The Interactive Health Tutorials from the Patient Education Institute use animated graphics to explain conditions or procedures in easy-to-read language. A useful summary can be printed from the slide shows.

MEDLINEplus Evaluates Health Web Sites

- Web sites are chosen with quality, authority and accuracy of content in mind.
- Information provided is appropriate to audience level and easy to use.
- The purpose of the web site is educational.
- The web site is not selling a product or service.
- Most content is available at no charge.
- Information is current or an update date is included.
- Registration is not required.

Other Helpful Resources

MEDLINEplus also includes links to dictionaries, directories of doctors, dentists, hospitals and clinics. MEDLINEplus is a gateway to consumer health and public libraries and other organizations where migrant farm workers can go to get health information. It also points to other NLM resources such as ClinicalTrials.gov, NIHSeniorHealth.gov and the new Tox Town (pictured here).



Conclusions

MEDLINEplus is a wealth of health information for migrant farm workers. By knowing about the extensive resources included in MEDLINEplus.gov, health care workers can confidently provide their patients with health information from current, reliable web sites.