



## What is MedlinePlus Connect?

MedlinePlus Connect links health IT systems, patient portals and electronic health record (EHR) systems to relevant, authoritative patient health information from MedlinePlus.gov. The National Library of Medicine, part of the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides this free service. MedlinePlus Connect is a Web application and a Web service that supports the HL7 Context-Aware Knowledge Retrieval (Infobutton) Knowledge Request Standard.

## What is MedlinePlus? How do patients or providers benefit from MedlinePlus?

MedlinePlus.gov offers free, reliable, up-to-date health information in English and Spanish, with no advertisements. Content is from reputable providers, including the National Institutes of Health, and other government and professional organizations. MedlinePlus helps millions of visitors a year access:

- Information on hundreds of diseases, conditions and wellness topics
- Interactive tutorials, videos and other multimedia
- An illustrated medical encyclopedia, dictionary definitions, and health news
- Medication and supplement information
- Links to health information in over 40 languages
- and much more...

MedlinePlus is your trusted source for health information. MedlinePlus Connect brings this reputable health information to patients, families, and health care providers when they need it via their patient portal or EHR.

## How does MedlinePlus Connect work?

MedlinePlus Connect responds to requests based on diagnosis (problem) codes, medication codes, and laboratory test codes. When an EHR or patient portal submits a code request, MedlinePlus Connect returns a response that includes links to relevant MedlinePlus patient information. MedlinePlus Connect currently accepts the following code requests:

### Problems/Diagnoses

- ICD-9-CM (International Classification of Disease, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, Clinical Modification)
- SNOMED CT<sup>®</sup> (Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine, Clinical Terms) — MedlinePlus Connect coverage of SNOMED CT focuses on CORE (Clinical Observations Recording and Encoding) Problem List Subset codes and their descendants

### Medications

- RXCUI (RxNorm Concept Unique Identifier)
- NDC (National Drug Code)
- MedlinePlus Connect also accepts text strings for medication requests

### Laboratory Tests

- LOINC<sup>®</sup> (Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes)

MedlinePlus Connect can reply with English or Spanish information. In the future, MedlinePlus Connect will support ICD-10-CM.

## Who can implement MedlinePlus Connect?

MedlinePlus Connect can be implemented as a quick, one-time change by:

- Health IT, EHR or patient portal vendors who offer MedlinePlus Connect as a feature to their clients.
- Health IT, EHR or patient portal purchasers and coordinators for hospitals, clinics, provider offices, or other facilities. They may be able to implement MedlinePlus Connect directly depending on their administrative rights in their EHR system. Otherwise, they can speak with their Health IT or EHR vendors.

NLM does not charge for use of MedlinePlus Connect.

## What does MedlinePlus Connect look like to the patient or provider?

The Web service and Web application provide responses in different formats. The Web application returns a link to a formatted MedlinePlus Connect response page. For a diagnosis/problem code, the response page will highlight the MedlinePlus topic page we have matched to that code, plus it may include sample links to patient information. For a medication request, the response page includes links to the most relevant drug information on MedlinePlus. For a laboratory test request, the response page includes links to relevant laboratory test information on MedlinePlus. The patient or provider may select from the links on the MedlinePlus Connect response page or go directly to MedlinePlus.

The image shows a screenshot of the MedlinePlus Connect website. The page title is "Knee Replacement" and it also lists "Also called: Knee arthroplasty". The main content area contains a paragraph: "Knee replacement is surgery for people with severe knee damage. Knee replacement can relieve pain and allow you to be more active. Your doctor may recommend it if you have knee pain and medicine and other treatments are not helping you anymore. When you have a total knee replacement, the surgeon ...". Below this is a link: "More on [Knee Replacement](#)". At the bottom, there are three links: "Getting your home ready - knee or hip surgery", "Hip or knee replacement - after - what to ask your doctor", and "Knee joint replacement - discharge".

Callouts in the image:

- A red callout box points to the main text area with the text: "Links to relevant MedlinePlus page with extensive articles, videos, and images for the patient".
- A red callout box points to the list of links at the bottom with the text: "Links to sample patient content".

The MedlinePlus Connect Web Service returns XML. If the organization implementing MedlinePlus Connect decides to use the Web service instead of the Web application, they may select which MedlinePlus links and information to provide from within the system instead of automatically linking to the standard MedlinePlus Connect response page.

For details, see: <http://medlineplus.gov/connect>

Last updated: October 2012