

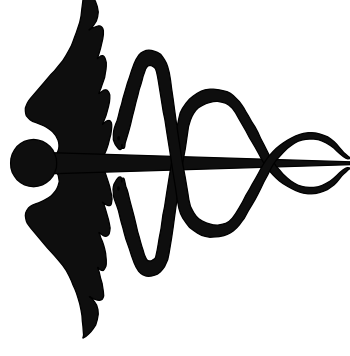
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<http://www4.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/>

### **Search Tips**

After you have exhausted other resources, try entering your topic in one of the many general search tools designed to find information on the Internet, such as AltaVista <http://www.altavista.com>, Yahoo <http://www.yahoo.com>, or Ask Jeeves <http://www.askjeeves.com>. If you learn to do keyword searches on these sites, you can find a large number of Web sites related to almost any subject. Often, searches yield a wide range of information of varying relevance to your topic. Sift through the results using the evaluation criteria listed earlier in this guide.

- Spelling counts. Find out the exact spelling of the subject you are researching.
- Start your search with a broad medical Web site to get a general overview of the topic.
- Look for an association or organization related to your topic to gain information regarding current research, specialists, support groups, and other contacts.

# *A Guide to* **Medical** **Resources** *on the* *Internet*



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## **Introduction**

If you or someone you know has been diagnosed with a medical condition, you may want to find information about the diagnosis.

*A Guide to Medical Resources on the Internet* will direct you to resources that can help ease the stress and confusion that can accompany medical issues. Information can empower you, helping you to know what questions to ask your health care provider and what options are available. The Internet expands the amount of information consumers have access to regarding health and medicine. It enables you to reach medical experts and learn about current research around the world.

The information presented here is not meant to replace professional medical advice, though it can provide you with sources of information to better understand health and medical concerns, diagnoses, and treatments.

## **Selection Criteria**

As you examine health resources on the Web, it is important to know your information sources are reliable, accurate, and timely. Since links to information and

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herbal medicine, massage, naturopathy, and other alternative healing approaches. <http://www.noah.cuny.edu/alternative/alternative.html>

## **Prescription Drugs Stayhealthy.com**

A searchable database of prescription drug information. For each drug, find common uses, possible side effects, and cautions. <http://www.infodrug.com/>

## **RxList: The Internet Drug Index**

Enables you to search for prescription drug information without the proper spelling of words. The search tool will try to find close matches. <http://www.rxlist.com>

## **Associations and Organizations National Health Information Center**

Provides links to organizations and associations devoted to specific health issues and their publications. <http://nhic-nt.health.org/>

## **Journal Articles**

### **PubMed National Library of Medicine**

Use PubMed to find citations for medical journal articles. PubMed's articles are designed for medical professionals, and the language is technical. PubMed does not provide the full text of articles, but you

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Health, Pregnancy, and Women's Health.  
<http://www.healthanswers.com/>

**AMA Health Insight**

Provides information for consumers on medications, medical conditions, family medicine, hospitals, licensed doctors, and many other topics.

<http://www.ama-assn.org/consumer.htm>

**Center for Disease Control and Prevention**

This Web site includes disease prevention and health information compiled by the government. In addition to fact sheets on diseases and health topics, it has a large archive of government data and statistics related to health care.

<http://www.cdc.gov>

**Mental Health  
Mental Health Net**

A searchable Web site that links you to mental health information on the Internet. It lists symptoms and treatment of mental health problems, newsgroups, articles, and mailing lists.

<http://mentalhelp.net/>

**Alternative Medicine**

**Ask NOAH About: Alternative (Complementary) Medicine**

Directory of Web resources related to alternative or complementary medicine. Provides information on acupuncture,

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Web resources change frequently, it is also worth ensuring you are looking at the most current materials. The sites included in this guide were chosen using the following criteria:

- The Web site publisher is clearly identified and can be contacted from the site.
- The Web site's purpose is stated in writing and is obvious when looking at the content.
- The information provided is comprehensive or uniquely important to medical research.
- The Web site is well known in the medical research community. It is cited in multiple subject resources, both print and online.
- The information provided is current and regularly updated. Revision dates are posted on the site.
- The Web site is well organized and easy to use. Multimedia features enhance, rather than distract from, the content offerings.
- The Web site includes search or index functions for easier navigation.
- The Web site adheres to accessibility conventions widely accepted in the Internet community.

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One Internet site that can help you decide which sites or practices are questionable is QuackWatch (<http://www.quackwatch.com>), which presents a conservative view of medical products and treatment options and reveals health-related frauds and myths.

### **Research Starting Points**

The sites included in this section are general medical resources, which cover a broad range of injuries, medical conditions, and treatment options. Use these sites to find a general overview of your subject and links to other Web sites that focus on your specific topic.

#### **Healthfinder**

##### **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

A searchable Web site that links consumers to health publications, groups, organizations, and information on medical conditions. You can also view the Web site in Spanish.

<http://www.healthfinder.gov>

#### **Mayo Clinic's Health Oasis**

Directed by a group of scientists, writers, and educators, Health Oasis is updated each weekday and includes easy-to-read articles on a wide variety of medical

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conditions and medications.  
<http://www.mayohealth.org>

#### **MedHunt: Health on the Net**

A search engine and directory that includes a worldwide selection of medical resources. It searches two databases of information about medical centers, organizations, and medical conditions. You can also view the Web site in French.  
<http://www.hon.ch/MedHunt/>

#### **MedicineNet**

Offers easy-to-read, in-depth medical information for consumers. Physicians and scientists contribute information to this site, which is divided into six categories: Diseases and Treatments, Procedures and Tests, Pharmacy, Medical Dictionary, First Aid, and Poison Control Centers.  
<http://www.medicinenet.com>

#### **Health Answers**

A great starting point for medical research. Includes seven searchable databases: Find an Injury, Find a Disease, Find a Drug, Find a Surgical Procedure, Find a Symptom, Find a Test, and Find a Poison. The site also features Health Centers on many topics, such as Senior Health, Alternative Medicine, STDs, Men's Health, Nutrition, Children's