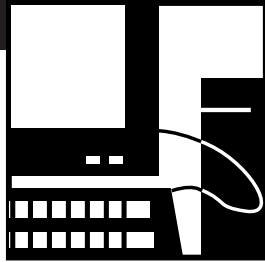


**DIRECTORIES, SEARCH  
ENGINES, AND  
REFERENCE SOURCES**





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## DIRECTORIES AND SEARCH ENGINES

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### Achoo Healthcare Online

Achoo is a so-so directory of health-related Internet sites. Despite its links to more than 7,000 sites, Achoo is amazingly skimpy in many categories. The site is operated by MNI Systems Corp., a Canadian firm.

The main directory is divided into three sections: human health and disease, business of health, and organizations and sources. Each listing is very briefly annotated, but the annotations usually aren't very helpful.

#### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.achoo.com>  
E-mail: [info@achoo.com](mailto:info@achoo.com)

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### BioSites

BioSites is a directory of selected Internet resources in the biomedical sciences. The site listings, which are divided by dozens of topics, are furnished by library staff in the Pacific Southwest Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine.

BioSites' coverage is quite limited, although it's still under construction. As the coverage broadens, BioSites could become very useful.

#### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.library.ucsf.edu/biosites>  
E-mail: [biosites@library.ucsf.edu](mailto:biosites@library.ucsf.edu)

## CliniWeb

CliniWeb is a searchable directory of nearly 10,000 Internet documents, images, and other resources about clinical medicine. Although its primary audience is physicians, some consumers also may find it useful. The site is operated by the Oregon Health Sciences University.

If you prefer, you can browse the site listings instead of searching them. The listings are indexed under terms from the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) Anatomy and Disease trees, which were created by the National Library of Medicine.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.ohsu.edu/clinweb>

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## Doctor's Guide to the Internet

The highlights of the Doctor's Guide to the Internet are the sections devoted to specific condition and illnesses. Each section typically has dozens of news articles, in addition to links to related newsgroups and Web sites. Some of the medical topics covered include AIDS, allergies, Alzheimer's disease, anxiety, breast cancer, depression, ear infections, elevated cholesterol, epilepsy, hypertension, insomnia, menopause, migraine, obesity, prostate cancer, schizophrenia, stroke, and ulcers and other gastric disorders, among others.

The site also offers daily medical news stories, information about new health-related Internet sites, and hundreds of articles about new drugs or new indications for previously available drugs. It's operated by the P\SL Consulting Group Inc.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.docguide.com>  
E-mail: [webmaster@pslgroup.com](mailto:webmaster@pslgroup.com)

## Hardin Meta Directory of Internet Health Sources

If you're looking for health information on the Internet, one of the best ways is to find a site that lists lots of other sites about your topic. These directory sites are a godsend, but tracking them down can be difficult.

Hardin solves this problem, at least in the health field. It's a meta directory—a directory of directories, in this case directories about health topics. Looking for cancer information? Start at Hardin, which provides links to nineteen cancer directories that in turn link to hundreds of cancer-related Internet sites, mailing lists, and newsgroups.

Hardin contains links to directories covering about three dozen health subjects—everything from allergy to toxicology. For each subject, there are typically links to ten to twenty directories. Hardin also offers links to a selection of new health sites on the Internet.

The Hardin Meta Directory is operated by the Hardin Library for the Health Sciences at the University of Iowa, which deserves three cheers for creating this wonderful resource.

### **Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin/md/index.html>  
E-mail: [hardin-webmaster@uiowa.edu](mailto:hardin-webmaster@uiowa.edu)

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## Health on the Net Foundation

The highlight of this site is MedHunt, a superb search engine that helps you find health documents, Web sites, mailing lists, and Usenet newsgroups across the Internet. You can search the database in English, Danish, German, Spanish, French, Italian, Dutch, and Portuguese. Each listing is rated by the Health on the Net Foundation (HON), a nonprofit organization headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

The site also has a Code of Conduct for medical and health Web sites (p. 7), a searchable database of medical movies and images, and information about HON projects and initiatives.

### **Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.hon.ch>  
E-mail: [webmaster@hon.co](mailto:webmaster@hon.co)

## HealthAtoZ

HealthAtoZ is a wonderful search engine to help you find health and medical information on the Internet. It's operated by Medical Network Inc., a private company.

HealthAtoZ's database lists thousands of health-related Internet sites, mailing lists, and newsgroups. Many of the best sites in the database carry brief, helpful annotations. If you prefer to browse instead of search, the database entries are broken out into dozens of directories.

HealthAtoZ also provides free access to Medline, a database containing millions of abstracts from the medical literature. You can search Medline by subject, author, keywords, journal, institution, and unique identifier.

### **Vital Stats:**

Access method:	WWW
To access:	<a href="http://healthatoz.com">http://healthatoz.com</a>
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:info@healthatoz.com">info@healthatoz.com</a>

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## Healthfinder

Healthfinder provides links to hundreds of federal government publications about health topics and to hundreds of consumer health sites on the Internet. All of the sites have been evaluated for quality by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

### **Vital Stats:**

Access method:	WWW
To access:	<a href="http://www.healthfinder.gov">http://www.healthfinder.gov</a>
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:dbaker@hhs-custos.dhhs.gov">dbaker@hhs-custos.dhhs.gov</a>

## HealthWeb

Medical librarians at universities throughout the Midwest collaborated to create HealthWeb, which provides links to thousands of evaluated health-related Web sites, mailing lists, and newsgroups.

The links are divided into dozens of subjects, and each subject page was created by a particular medical library. Pages are currently available for cardiology, consumer health, dentistry, diabetes, gastroenterology, genetics, geriatrics and gerontology, infectious diseases, minority health, neurology, nutrition, oncology, ophthalmology, pediatrics, physical medicine and rehabilitation, primary care and family practice, psychiatry, public health, rheumatology, rural health, substance abuse, transplantation, and women's health, among other topics. Pages for additional subjects will be added in the future.

Since pages were developed independently by various libraries, they vary in their depth of coverage. However, most are quite extensive, and provide excellent starting points for searches on particular medical topics.

### **Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://healthweb.org>  
E-mail: [healthweb@umich.edu](mailto:healthweb@umich.edu)

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## Index to HSLS Internet Resources

This site offers an excellent collection of links to hundreds of health-related Internet sites, mailing lists, and Usenet newsgroups. The links are divided by dozens of subjects. The site is operated by the Health Sciences Library System (HSLS) at the University of Pittsburgh.

### **Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/intres/alphi.html>  
E-mail: [falkweb+@pitt.edu](mailto:falkweb+@pitt.edu)

## The Internet Sleuth—Health Indexes

This database lets you search nearly a dozen top directories of Internet health sites using a single interface. Some of the directories included are Achoo, HealthAtoZ, MedExplorer, and Six Senses Review.

You must search each directory separately. The database is part of The Internet Sleuth search engine.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.isleuth.com/heal-index.html>  
E-mail: [sleuth@isleuth.com](mailto:sleuth@isleuth.com)

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## Medical Matrix

This extraordinary resource provides annotated, ranked listings for more than 3,000 health-related Internet sites. It focuses on clinical sites of interest to physicians, but also is of tremendous use to consumers. Medical Matrix is operated by HealthTel Corp.

Most of the listings are categorized by disease. However, there are also sections on clinical trials, ethnic medicine, rural medicine, full text clinical journals, hypertext books, major journals, Medline, news, health care management and policy, health care meta directories, and medical Internet directories and guides, among other subjects.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.medmatrix.org>  
E-mail: [gmalet@healthtel.com](mailto:gmalet@healthtel.com)

## Medical World Search

This powerful search engine hunts through health-related Internet sites that have been chosen for their quality. If you're searching for health information, it's far more efficient to use Medical World Search than a general search engine such as Altavista, Infoseek, or Webcrawler.

To help with your search, Medical World Search employs a thesaurus of more than half a million medical terms that lets it search automatically for related terms. The site is operated by TLC Information Services, a private company founded by researchers at Polytechnic University in Brooklyn, N.Y.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.mwsearch.com>  
E-mail: [mwsearch@mwsearch.com](mailto:mwsearch@mwsearch.com)

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## Michigan Electronic Library

The Health Information Resources page of the Michigan Electronic Library (MEL) provides thousands of links to health-related documents and Internet sites. Each resource included in the database has been selected and evaluated by librarians.

The links are arranged under dozens of topics, and you also can search the entire MEL database. MEL is a joint project of the University of Michigan, the Library of Michigan, and Merit Inc.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://mel.lib.mi.us/health/health-index.html>  
E-mail: [lansdale@tln.lib.mi.us](mailto:lansdale@tln.lib.mi.us)

## National Institutes of Health Server

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Server is a gateway to the dozens of Internet sites operated by NIH offices and institutes.

The server also has a searchable index of diseases currently being investigated at NIH or by NIH-supported scientists, a list of toll-free phone numbers for NIH information hotlines, a searchable NIH telephone book, a map of the NIH campus, a calendar of events, and much more.

### Vital Stats:

Access methods: WWW  
To access: <http://www.nih.gov>  
E-mail: [webmaster@www.nih.gov](mailto:webmaster@www.nih.gov)

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## Search NIH Web-Space

Search NIH Web-Space provides a search engine that looks for documents on more than 150 Web sites and Gophers operated by various components of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). You can search by numerous variables, and both basic and complex queries are available.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://search.info.nih.gov>  
E-mail: [webmaster@www.nih.gov](mailto:webmaster@www.nih.gov)

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## Tile.Net

Tile.Net provides links to more than 150 Internet mailing lists devoted to health and medical topics. For each list, Tile.Net lists the sponsor, the subscription address, subscription instructions, and the e-mail address for the list administrator.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://tile.net/lists/medicine.html>  
E-mail: [info@shelby.com](mailto:info@shelby.com)

## Yahoo!

Yahoo!'s health page provides links to thousands of health and medical Internet sites. The links are divided into more than forty top-level subjects, many of which have subdivisions.

Some of the top-level subjects include alternative medicine, death and dying, disabilities, first aid, fitness, mental health, news and media, nutrition, public health and safety, reference, reproductive health, sexuality, weight issues, and women's health.

Yahoo! also has links to chat rooms devoted to health topics and health-related news stories from Reuters.

### **Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW

To access: <http://www.yahoo.com/Health>

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## DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS

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### AMA Physician Select

AMA Physician Select is a database containing basic information about more than 650,000 doctors of medicine and doctors of osteopathy or osteopathic medicine in the United States and its possessions. The site is operated by the American Medical Association.

To search the database, you must know the state where the physician is located. For now you can search by name or medical specialty, and in the near future you'll be able to search for physicians who treat a particular illness or condition.

For each physician, the database lists an office address and phone number, primary practice specialty, year graduated from medical school, medical schools attended, location of medical residency, and whether the doctor is board certified.

#### Vital Stats:

Access method:	WWW
To access:	<a href="http://www.ama-assn.org/aps/amahg.htm">http://www.ama-assn.org/aps/amahg.htm</a>
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:AMAMDSelect@ama-assn.org">AMAMDSelect@ama-assn.org</a>

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### DocFinder

This site provides licensing information for doctors in many states. It's operated by the Association of State Medical Board Executive Directors.

When this book was being written, records were available for doctors in Arizona, California, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, and Vermont. More states will be added in the future. You must search each state's licenses separately.

The information available for each doctor varies by state, but typically includes medical license status, address, date original license issued, medical school, and year graduated from medical school. Where applicable, the system also lists any hospital disciplinary actions, malpractice awards, or arbitration awards against the doctor.

The site also offers contact information for medical licensing boards in every state.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.docboard.org>  
E-mail: [docboard@madriver.com](mailto:docboard@madriver.com)

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## Hospital Select

Hospital Select's database provides basic information about nearly every hospital in the United States. It's operated by the American Medical Association and Medical-Net Inc., a commercial firm.

You can search the database by hospital name, state, city, county, and Zip Code. For each hospital, the database lists the address, telephone number, name of the chief executive officer, services provided, and accreditations.

Even more interesting are the annual bed and utilization statistics listed for each hospital. Data are provided on numbers of beds, intensive care unit beds, admissions, emergency room visits, inpatient surgeries, and outpatient surgeries. The database also supplies annual occupancy percentages for the entire hospital and the intensive care unit.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.hospitalselect.com>  
E-mail: [jeanne@mednetweb.com](mailto:jeanne@mednetweb.com)

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## GENERAL HEALTH RESOURCES

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### Agency for Health Care Policy and Research

The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research site has numerous consumer publications, including *Choosing and Using a Health Plan*, *Prescription Medicines and You*, *What You Should Know About Stroke Prevention*, and *Be Informed: Questions to Ask Your Doctor Before You Have Surgery*.

It also has consumer publications about various medical topics, including acute pain management, chronic incontinence, cataracts, depression, management of cancer pain, mammography, acute low back problems, and poststroke rehabilitation, among others.

In addition, the site has various health care statistics, news about upcoming conferences, speeches and congressional testimony by AHCPR officials, announcements about grants and job vacancies, and information about the National Advisory Council for Health Care Policy, Research, and Evaluation.

#### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.ahcpr.gov>  
E-mail: [info@ahcpr.gov](mailto:info@ahcpr.gov)

## alt.health

The alt.health newsgroup is devoted to discussions of a wide range of health issues.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: Usenet newsgroup  
To access: news:alt.health

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## alt.med

Discussions in the alt.med newsgroup cover a wide range of medical topics.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: Usenet newsgroup  
To access: news:alt.med

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## AMA Health Insight

AMA Health Insight, which is operated by the American Medical Association, offers a smorgasbord of health information. It has everything from tips on choosing a health care plan to recent medical stories from Reuters to special sections on women's health and adolescent health.

One of the site's highlights is its collection of detailed articles about specific medical conditions. There are articles about arthritis, asthma, blood pressure, depression, type II diabetes, heart attack, HIV/AIDS, and migraine headache.

The site also has an atlas of the human body, strategies for becoming physically fit, a medical glossary, a personal health history record that can be filled out online, recipes, advice on travel health, nutrition information, and lots more.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.ama-assn.org/consumer.htm>  
E-mail: [insight@ama-assn.org](mailto:insight@ama-assn.org)

## Brochure Resource Library

This site has dozens of brochures from various sources about alcohol and other drugs, cold care, cold and canker sores, diet and nutrition, eating disorders, fitness, infectious diseases, mental health, reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases, stress management, and other subjects. It's operated by the Fronske Health Center at Northern Arizona University.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.nau.edu/~fronske/broch.html>  
E-mail: [Elizabeth.Applebee@nau.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Applebee@nau.edu)

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## CDC Servers

The CDC Servers offer an incredible collection of health-related databases, books, and documents. They're operated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The servers offer *Physical Activity and Health: A Report of the Surgeon General*; the full text of the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*; brochures from the National Center for Health Statistics about lead poisoning, preventing birth defects, and other topics; *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, a journal published by the National Center for Infectious Diseases; and brochures about chronic fatigue syndrome, Lyme disease, and malaria.

They also provide access to CDC WONDER, a huge database system that provides CDC reports, guidelines, and public health data; numerous publications from the National Center for Health Statistics; extensive health-related information for international travelers, including details about vaccine requirements and health recommendations for specific regions of the world; the *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, a report published semiannually by the CDC that contains tabular and graphic information about AIDS and HIV case reports in the United States; and lots, lots more.

### Vital Stats:

Access methods: WWW, FTP  
To access: <http://www.cdc.gov> or <ftp://ftp.cdc.gov>  
Login (FTP only): **anonymous**  
Password (FTP only): your e-mail address  
E-mail: [netinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:netinfo@cdc.gov)

## Consumer Information Center

The Consumer Information Center (CIC) offers the full text of dozens of federal government publications about nutrition and general health topics. The CIC is part of the U.S. General Services Administration.

Here are the titles of some of the available publications in the site's food and nutrition section:

- A Consumer's Guide to Fats
- Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- Eat Right to Help Lower Your High Blood Pressure
- How to Buy Fresh Fruits
- How to Help Avoid Foodborne Illness in the Home
- Taking the Fat Out of Food
- Vegetarian Diets

The site's health section offers the following titles, among others:

- A Guide to Contraceptive Choices
- Alzheimer's Disease
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Anxiety Disorders
- Cancer Tests You Should Know About
- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
- Controlling Asthma
- Dizziness
- Eating Disorders
- Fitness and Exercise
- Getting Fit Your Way
- Guide to Choosing a Nursing Home
- Headaches
- Helping the Depressed Person Get Treatment

- Menopause
- Overcoming Infertility
- Personal Health Guide
- Preventing Stroke
- Questions to Ask Your Doctor Before You Have Surgery
- The Healthy Heart Handbook for Women
- Urinary Tract Infections in Adults
- What You Need to Know About Skin Cancer

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
 To access: <http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov>  
 E-mail: [catalog.pueblo@gsa.gov](mailto:catalog.pueblo@gsa.gov)

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**Diagnostic Test Information Server**

This experimental site offers a searchable database with information about diagnostic tests. The data are taken from the 1996 book *Pocket Guide to Diagnostic Tests*, and the site is provided by the Department of Medicine at the University of California-San Francisco.

For now, you can only search for laboratory tests. In the future, the developers plan to add microbiology and radiology tests. For each test, the database provides a clinical description, data on the normal range for results, and the cost.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
 To access: <http://dgim-www.ucsf.edu/TestSearch.html>  
 E-mail: [bdetmer@virginia.edu](mailto:bdetmer@virginia.edu)

## Go Ask Alice!

Go Ask Alice! is a question-and-answer service provided by Columbia University Health Services. Users can submit questions about sexuality, sexual health, relationships, general health, fitness and nutrition, emotional well-being, and alcohol and other drugs, or they can search through hundreds of previous questions and answers on those topics.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/healthwise/alice.html>

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## Health Information for Patients

This site provides brief patient information handouts about more than 200 health topics. Some of the subjects covered include migraine headaches, sleep apnea, pain relief after surgery, the female reproductive system, allergies, gastrointestinal disorders, psychological disorders, sleep disorders, addictions, bioethics, infections, pregnancy, and exercise, among many others. The site is operated by the American Academy of Family Physicians.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://home.aafp.org/family/patient>  
E-mail: [fp@aafp.org](mailto:fp@aafp.org)

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## Healthy Lives

This site has more than a dozen brochures about various medical conditions. Some of the topics covered include asthma, bronchitis, chicken pox, depression, ear infections, herpes, migraines, nasal allergies, shingles, and ulcers, among others. The site is operated by Glaxo Wellcome, a pharmaceutical company.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.healthy lives.com>

## InfoNet

InfoNet offers phone numbers for dozens of organizations that people can call to get information about medical conditions. Some of the organizations listed include the Elder Care Locator Service, National AIDS Information Clearinghouse, Well Spouse Foundation, American Chronic Pain Association, American Association of Disabled Persons, National Headache Foundation, and the National Organization for Rare Disorders, among many others.

InfoNet also provides links to Web sites operated by these organizations. InfoNet is provided by the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions.

### **Vital Stats:**

Access method:           WWW  
To access:                <http://infonet.welch.jhu.edu/advocacy.html>  
E-mail:                    [www@infonet.welch.jhu.edu](mailto:www@infonet.welch.jhu.edu)

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## Internet FDA

A wide range of information about the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and its regulation of food, drugs, medical devices, and the blood supply is available on Internet FDA.

The site has information about the FDA's efforts to regulate tobacco; the weekly *FDA Enforcement Report*, which lists FDA-regulated products that are being recalled; *FDA Consumer*, a consumer magazine; telephone numbers for many FDA offices and officials; brief summaries of laws that the FDA enforces; information about how to report problems with foods, drugs, and other products that the FDA regulates; lists of FDA publications; the full text of selected speeches and testimony by FDA officials; press releases; links to other FDA Internet sites; and much more.

### **Vital Stats:**

Access method:           WWW  
To access:                <http://www.fda.gov>

## The Internet Sleuth—Health

This database lets you search more than a dozen of the best general health sites on the Internet using a single interface. You must search each site separately. The database is part of The Internet Sleuth search engine.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.isleuth.com/heal.html>  
E-mail: [sleuth@isleuth.com](mailto:sleuth@isleuth.com)

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## Mayo Health O@sis

Mayo Health O@sis, which is operated by the Mayo Clinic, provides thousands of articles about virtually every medical topic you can imagine. It's one of the premier medical sites on the Internet.

The site is particularly strong in the subjects of diet and nutrition, pregnancy and child health, cancer, heart wellness, women's health, and medicine. But it also has extensive materials about various diseases, mental health, first aid, fitness, food and diet, health care options, how the body works, medical tests and procedures, natural healing, prevention and wellness, rehabilitation, and sexuality, among many other topics.

One of the site's most interesting features provides detailed information about more than 8,000 prescription and over-the-counter drugs. Another interesting feature lets you submit questions to Mayo doctors. And the site has a handy glossary of medical terms.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.mayohealth.org>

## Med Help International

Med Help International offers a superb database containing all kinds of medical information. If you type in the name of a disease or condition, the database will return articles from such sources as the National Institutes of Health and The Johns Hopkins University, relevant entries from a medical glossary, news items about the subject, a list of patient support groups, and links to other articles at selected medical sites. The site is operated by Med Help International, a nonprofit organization.

Another useful feature is a set of forums where users can submit questions to doctors. Questions in the Gastroenterology and Liver Disease Forum and the Urology Forum are answered by doctors from the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, and questions in the Heart Forum and the Neurology and Neurosurgery Forum are answered by doctors from The Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Additional forums will be added in the future.

Another highlight is the Patient Network, where users can search for other people who share their medical conditions and who wish to share information and support by e-mail. Users also can register so others can contact them.

### Vital Stats:

Access method:	WWW
To access:	<a href="http://www.medhelp.org">http://www.medhelp.org</a>
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:staff@medhelp.org">staff@medhelp.org</a>

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## MedicineNet

MedicineNet has articles and links related to hundreds of diseases and medical conditions. It's operated by a group of board-certified physicians.

One interesting feature lets you submit questions to the doctors. You also can search through answers to 6,000 previous questions.

The site also has brief articles about hundreds of prescription drugs, a medical dictionary, basic first aid information, and contact information for poison control centers around the country.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.medicinenet.com>  
E-mail: [mniceo@fia.net](mailto:mniceo@fia.net)

**Mediconsult.com**

This site provides extensive information about more than sixty diseases and health issues. Some of the topics covered include Alzheimer's disease, arthritis, chronic pain, colostomy, contraception, depression, fitness, headache, incontinence, infertility, inflammatory bowel disease, melatonin, palliative care, pregnancy complications, skin disorders, stress, travel vaccinations, vasectomy, and vitamins and nutrition. The site is operated by a marketing company.

For each topic, the site offers articles and brochures from government agencies and other sources, a moderated support group, news items, summaries of journal articles, drug information, and links to related Web sites.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.mediconsult.com>  
E-mail: [ask\\_barb@mediconsult.com](mailto:ask_barb@mediconsult.com)

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**Medscape**

Medscape offers thousands of full-text articles from various sources. Many are from more than two dozen medical journals, including *The AIDS Reader*, *American Heart Journal*, *Cancer Control*, *Clinical Psychiatry News*, *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, *Hippocrates*, *Oncology Issues*, *Pediatric News*, and *Skin & Allergy News*, among others. You must register to read the articles and other resources, but registration is free.

Medscape also offers free access to three databases created by the National Library of Medicine:

- MEDLINE, which provides bibliographic information and abstracts for nearly nine million articles from medical journals.

- AIDSLINE, which provides bibliographic information and abstracts for journal articles, government reports, newspaper articles, and other items about HIV/AIDS published from 1980 to the present.
- TOXLINE, which has more than four million citations for materials about the pharmacological, biochemical, physiological, and toxicological effects of drugs and other chemicals.

Medscape also provides daily medical news, a medical dictionary, and lots more.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
 To access: <http://www.medscape.com>  
 E-mail: [stephen\\_smith@mail.medscape.com](mailto:stephen_smith@mail.medscape.com)

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**misc.health**

A wide variety of health issues are discussed in the newsgroup misc.health.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: Usenet newsgroup  
 To access: [news:misc.health](mailto:news:misc.health)

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**National Academy Press**

Dozens of books about behavioral sciences, food and nutrition, health care, and related subjects are available in full text at this site. The National Academy Press is the publishing arm of the National Academy of Sciences, a nonprofit organization that was chartered by Congress in 1863 to advise the federal government on scientific and technical matters.

Some of the available titles include *Women and Health Research*, *Broadening the Base of Treatment for Alcohol Problems*, *Child Health and Human Rights*, *Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children*, *Nutrition During Pregnancy*, *Expanding Access to Investigational Therapies for HIV Infection and AIDS*, and *Possible Health Effects of Exposure to Residential Electric and Magnetic Fields*.

Some of the other titles provided include *Preparing for the 21st Century: Focusing on Quality in a Changing Health Care System*; *AIDS and Behavior: An Integrated Approach*; *Risking the Future: Adolescent Sexuality, Pregnancy, and Childbearing*;

*Tinnitus: Facts, Theories, and Treatments; Eat for Life: The Food and Nutrition Board's Guide to Reducing Your Risk of Chronic Disease; 2020 Vision: Health in the 21st Century; Health Data in the Information Age: Use, Disclosure, and Privacy; Telemedicine: A Guide to Assessing Telecommunications for Health Care; Approaching Death: Improving Care at the End of Life; and Primary Care: America's Health in a New Era.*

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.nap.edu>  
E-mail: [mgriskey@nas.edu](mailto:mgriskey@nas.edu)

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## **NIH Clinical Research Studies**

This site provides detailed information about more than 1,000 medical studies being conducted at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center. You can search the studies using keywords or browse them by institute or disease category. Although the site is aimed at physicians, it provides a fascinating look at some of the research being conducted at NIH.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.cc.nih.gov/nihstudies>

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## **Office of Disease Prevention**

The Office of Disease Prevention site offers dozens of reports that evaluate scientific information on various medical topics. The reports, known as Consensus Development Statements, result from National Institutes of Health conferences.

There are reports about genetic testing for cystic fibrosis, interventions to prevent HIV risk behaviors, breast cancer screening for women ages forty to forty-nine, physical activity and cardiovascular health, optimal calcium intake, mortality and morbidity of dialysis, early identification of hearing impairment in infants and young children, impotence, diagnosis and treatment of early melanoma, diagnosis and treatment of depression in late life, and treatment of panic disorder, among other subjects.

The site also has background information about the Women's Health Initiative, a huge national study aimed at reducing coronary heart disease, breast and colorectal cancer, and osteoporotic fractures among postmenopausal women.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://odp.od.nih.gov>  
E-mail: [webmaster@www.nih.gov](mailto:webmaster@www.nih.gov)

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## Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

This site offers a list of federal health information centers and clearinghouses, a list of health-related organizations that have toll-free hotlines, and a calendar of national health observances.

The site also has the report *Nutrition and Your Health: Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, information about the Healthy People 2000 initiative, and the *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance*, which describes more than 1,300 federal programs that provide grants, loans, services, information, training, and other assistance to the public.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.odphp.osophs.dhhs.gov>  
E-mail: [dbaker@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:dbaker@osophs.dhhs.gov)

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## Office of Minority Health Resource Center

The Office of Minority Health Resource Center offers the *Minority Health Resource Pocket Guide*, which lists federal and state minority health officials, federal health information centers and clearinghouses, national minority organizations, and sources of health materials for minority populations.

The site also has information about services available from the center, legislative news, grant information, a calendar of events and conferences, a bimonthly newsletter titled *Closing the Gap*, searchable databases containing bibliographic information for publications about minority health, and the *Funding Guide*, which has information about grants and funding resources, state resources, the top twenty-five foundations, and writing proposals.

In addition, the site has a list of seventy health-related federal information centers and clearinghouses, lists of health professionals who volunteer to provide technical assistance to community-based organizations that are active in minority health issues, and a publication titled *Breast Cancer and Minorities: A Resource Guide*.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.omhrc.gov>  
E-mail: [lmosby@omhrc.gov](mailto:lmosby@omhrc.gov)

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## Office of Rare Diseases

The Office of Rare Diseases site has a list of about 2,000 rare diseases, a searchable database of current clinical trials involving rare diseases, news about research results, a calendar of events, and links to other Internet sites that provide information about rare diseases. The office is part of the National Institutes of Health.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/ord>  
E-mail: [ordcomments@icic.nci.nih.gov](mailto:ordcomments@icic.nci.nih.gov)

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## sci.med

This very active newsgroup, which averages nearly 100 messages daily, covers a wide range of medical topics.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: Usenet newsgroup  
To access: <news:sci.med>

## Thrive

Thrive has everything from medical news stories by Reuters to files about dozens of specific illnesses and conditions, including AIDS, anxiety, back pain, chronic fatigue, depression, head pain, incontinence, insomnia, and sleep apnea, among many others.

Thrive, which is a joint venture between America Online and Time Inc., also offers:

- A searchable database with summaries of thousands of articles on health topics from consumer magazines, medical publications, and newspapers.
- Message boards on general health, fitness, asthma, osteoporosis, endometriosis, menopause, sex, and health books.
- Scheduled chats on depression, fitness, stress, pregnancy loss, menopause, breast cancer, alternative medicine, sleep disorders, walking, asthma, transplants, and other subjects.
- A feature where you can ask questions about eating, fitness, general health, women's health, psychology, sex, and asthma.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.thriveonline.com>  
E-mail: [help@pathfinder.com](mailto:help@pathfinder.com)

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## The Virtual Hospital

The Virtual Hospital, which is operated by the University of Iowa College of Medicine, has hundreds of consumer pamphlets about a variety of medical topics.

Some sample titles include *Warning Signs of Breast Cancer*, *What Are Clinical Trials All About?*, *Taking Time: Support for People with Cancer and the People Who Care About Them*, *Action Guide for Healthy Eating*, *How to Protect Your Skin from Sun Damage*, *How to Increase the Amount of Fiber in Your Diet*, *Recommended Heart-Healthy Cookbooks*, *Cast Care*, *Learning to Live with Diabetes*, *Exercises for Your Sore Shoulder*, *What to Do When You Can't Sleep*, *Continuous Hormone Replacement Therapy After Menopause*, *How to Prevent Foodborne Illness*, *Smell & Taste Disorders*, *Parents' Guide to Children's Eating Problems*, and *Advance Directives for Health Care*.

The pamphlets are from a variety of sources—the National Cancer Institute, University of Iowa Cancer Center, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Boston Children's Hospital, and the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, among others.

Another site highlight is a collection of articles, lectures, and books for physicians about various health issues. Some of the topics covered include travel-related diseases, the human brain, dermatology, emergency medicine, primary care medicine, lung cancer, acute low back problems in adults, infectious diseases of the central nervous system, fatal child abuse and neglect in the United States, back pain in children, asthma in children, preventive medicine, and clinical psychopharmacology.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.vh.org>  
E-mail: [librarian@vh.org](mailto:librarian@vh.org)

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# MEDICAL JOURNALS, NEWSPAPERS, AND OTHER NEWS SOURCES

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## Archives Specialty Journals

Abstracts from nine specialty journals published by the American Medical Association are provided on this site. Abstracts are available for articles published back to July 1995. A few full-text articles also are provided.

The journals abstracted include the *Archives of Internal Medicine*, *Archives of Dermatology*, *Archives of Family Medicine*, *Archives of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery*, *Archives of Neurology*, *Archives of General Psychiatry*, *Archives of Ophthalmology*, *Archives of Surgery*, and the *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW

To access: <http://www.ama-assn.org/public/journals>

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## British Medical Journal

The highlight of this site is a book that introduces nonexperts to finding medical articles and assessing their value. The book, *How to Read a Paper: The Basics of Evidence-Based Medicine*, is provided in full text.

Several other books also are provided in full text: *Statistics at Square One*, *Epidemiology for the Uninitiated*, *ABC of Medical Computing*, and *A Guide to the Internet for Medical Practitioners*.

The site also has selected articles from the weekly *British Medical Journal* published from March 1995 to the present.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.bmj.com>  
E-mail: [bmj@bmj.com](mailto:bmj@bmj.com)

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## CNN Health

This site offers daily stories on a wide variety of health topics. It's operated by the Cable News Network (CNN).

Besides the daily stories, the site has an archive containing thousands of past stories. They're separated by topic, including abortion, Alzheimer's disease, cancer, diabetes, euthanasia, fitness, obesity, parenting, pregnancy, sleeping, and women's health, among many others.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.cnn.com/HEALTH>  
E-mail: [cnn.feedback@cnn.com](mailto:cnn.feedback@cnn.com)

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## Docnet MediS Search

MediS is a search engine that indexes articles from dozens of major medical journals. Each "hit" links to an abstract or article at the journal publisher's Web site. Docnet is operated by a group of physicians in England.

Some of the journals indexed include the *British Medical Journal*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Archives of Psychiatry*, *Archives of Women's Health*, *Age and Aging*, *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, *Alcohol and Alcoholism*, *Anti-Cancer Drug Design*, *Health Policy and Planning*, *Stroke*, *The Journal of Psychopharmacology*, and *The Journal of Neuroscience*.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.docnet.org.uk/medisn/search.html>  
E-mail: [webmaster@docnet.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@docnet.org.uk)

## The Internet Sleuth—Journals

This database lets you search sites operated by a dozen medical journals using a single interface. You must search each site separately. The database is part of The Internet Sleuth search engine.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.isleuth.com/medi-jour.html>  
E-mail: [sleuth@isleuth.com](mailto:sleuth@isleuth.com)

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## The Internet Sleuth—News

This database lets you search a half-dozen sites that offer health and medical news using a single interface. You must search each site separately. The database is part of The Internet Sleuth search engine.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.isleuth.com/medi-news.html>  
E-mail: [sleuth@isleuth.com](mailto:sleuth@isleuth.com)

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## JAMA

This site has abstracts of most articles published in *JAMA*, also known as the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, since July 1995. A few articles are available in full text.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.ama-assn.org/public/journals/jama>  
E-mail: [jama-comments@ama-assn.org](mailto:jama-comments@ama-assn.org)

## Medical Tribune Online

Each edition of the *Medical Tribune* published online has more than a dozen feature articles, many reporting the results of studies published in medical journals. Some recent article titles include “Easing Up on Obesity Not the Way to Go,” “New Pediatric Guidelines Take Aim at Antibiotic Resistance,” “Researchers Reaffirm Depression-CVD Link,” “Clinton Proposes Medicare Benefits for Those Under 65,” and “Advocacy Groups Urge More Screening for Colorectal Cancer.”

Issues are archived online dating back to November 1996. The archives are fully searchable.

The Medical Tribune is published twenty-one times annually by Jobson Publishing, which supplies medical news to the New York Times Syndicate.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.medtrib.com>  
E-mail: [sbutsch@jobson.com](mailto:sbutsch@jobson.com)

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## MMWR Mailing Lists

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention operates three mailing lists that distribute portions or the complete text of the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR). The MMWR has articles about public health topics such as emerging infectious diseases, immunizations, and environmental health. The three lists are:

- MMWR distributes the full text in a PDF file that includes charts, tables, and graphs.
- MMWR-ASC distributes the full text in ASCII text, with no charts, tables, or graphs.
- MMWR-TOC distributes the table of contents and instructions about how to download the full articles electronically.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: E-mail  
To access: Send an e-mail message to [listserv@listserv.cdc.gov](mailto:listserv@listserv.cdc.gov)  
Subject line:  
Message: **subscribe *listname***  
E-mail (questions): [mmwrq@epo.em.cdc.gov](mailto:mmwrq@epo.em.cdc.gov)

## New England Journal of Medicine

This site has abstracts of all articles published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* since January 1993. A limited number of articles are available in full text. The journal is published weekly by the Massachusetts Medical Society.

The following features from each issue are available online in full text: Images in Clinical Medicine, Case Records of the Massachusetts General Hospital, Editorials, Sounding Board articles, Correspondence, and Book Reviews. Original Articles, which report clinical research results, and Special Articles, which report on health policy research, are only provided in abstracts.

In addition, the site has the full text of selected articles on specific subjects. The topics change periodically, but when this book was being written they included kidney disease, breast cancer, molecular medicine, and asthma.

Another useful feature is a searchable calendar of medical meetings.

The Massachusetts Medical Society also operates the TOC-L mailing list (p. 45), which each week distributes the table of contents for the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.nejm.org>  
E-mail: [comments@massmed.org](mailto:comments@massmed.org)

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## Newswise

Each month, dozens of press releases from leading medical research institutions are posted on the Newswise site. Newswise is aimed at reporters, but anyone interested in current medical research will find it valuable.

Press releases are available from the American College of Physicians, Mayo Clinic, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, UCLA, University of Pittsburgh, Cleveland Clinic, Cornell University, American Heart Association, Yale University, Temple University, American Academy of Dermatology, and American Psychiatric Association, among other institutions.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.newswise.com/menu-sm.htm>  
E-mail: [rjohnson@newswise.com](mailto:rjohnson@newswise.com)

## PR Newswire Health/Biotech

This site archives press releases from more than 100 pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and health care companies. The releases are separated by company. For some companies, there also are links to stock quotes and home pages. The site is operated by PR Newswire, a company that distributes press releases.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: [http://www.prnewswire.com/healthcare\\_news.html](http://www.prnewswire.com/healthcare_news.html)  
E-mail: [todd\\_grossman@prnewswire.com](mailto:todd_grossman@prnewswire.com)

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## PsychArticle Search

This search engine lets you search more than 1,100 psychology, psychiatry, and social science journals. You can search individual journals or groups of journals. Depending on the journal, the search engine returns a table of contents, abstract, or full-text article.

It also has annotated links to the journals. You can browse the links alphabetically, by subject, by language, and by other variables.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://telehealth.net/armin/jsearch.html>  
Mirror: <http://www.shef.ac.uk/~psyc/journals/jsearch.html>  
E-mail: [Armin.Guenther@WiSo.Uni-Augsburg.DE](mailto:Armin.Guenther@WiSo.Uni-Augsburg.DE)

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## TOC-L

The TOC-L mailing list distributes the weekly table of contents for the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The list is operated by the Massachusetts Medical Society, which also operates the New England Journal of Medicine Web site (p. 44).

### Vital Stats:

Access method: E-mail  
To access: Send an e-mail message to [listserv@massmed.org](mailto:listserv@massmed.org)

Subject line:

Message:

**SUBSCRIBE TOC-L** *firstname lastname*

E-mail:

TOC-L-request@massmed.org

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## WebMedLit

WebMedLit is a searchable index of abstracts and articles published in nearly two dozen major medical journals. When you conduct a search, each “hit” links you to the original abstract or article at the publisher’s Web site. WebMedLit, which is operated by Web Medical Literature Services, only indexes articles published in the last six weeks.

If you prefer, instead of searching you can browse through listings in ten subject categories: AIDS/virology, cancer/oncology, cardiology, dermatology, diabetes/endocrinology, gastroenterology, immunology, medical economics, neurology, and women’s health.

Some of the journals indexed include the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, *British Medical Journal*, *American Journal of Epidemiology*, *Archives of General Psychiatry*, *Archives of Ophthalmology*, *Archives of Internal Medicine*, *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, *Cancer*, *Diabetes Care*, and *Brain*.

### Vital Stats:

Access method:

WWW

To access:

<http://www.webmedlit.com>

E-mail:

[feedback@webmedlit.com](mailto:feedback@webmedlit.com)

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## www.reutershealth.com

This site provides about a dozen medical stories for consumers each day. It’s operated by Reuters Health Information.

Some recent headlines include “1959 Blood Yields Earliest Known HIV Case,” “Gene Therapy May Help Heart Failure,” “Antibiotics Won’t Help Most Colds,” “Suicides Rise After Natural Disasters,” and “Congress Unites to Oppose Cloning.”

Although it costs nothing to read the daily stories, accessing a searchable archive and other site features requires an annual subscription payment.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.reutershealth.com>  
E-mail: [webmaster@reutershealth.com](mailto:webmaster@reutershealth.com)

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**Your Health Daily**

Your Health Daily provides about a half-dozen articles concerning health issues each day. It's operated by The New York Times Syndicate.

Some recent headlines include “‘Keyhole’ Surgery May Cure Severe Heartburn,” “Disaster Survivors at Greater Risk of Suicide,” “New Heart Devices May Conquer ‘Last Frontier,’” “Researchers Try to ‘Turn On’ Resting HIV Cells,” “Cocaine Link to Brain Damage is Studied,” “Article on Saccharin Leaves Bitter Taste,” and “Earliest-Known Case of AIDS Detected.”

All articles are archived for about six weeks. In addition, articles about two dozen specific topics are archived for several months.

The site also provides nearly two dozen discussion groups on various health topics. However, when this book was being written, they weren't very active.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://yourhealthdaily.com>  
E-mail: [vancepw@nytimes.com](mailto:vancepw@nytimes.com)

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## MEDLIB LIBRARIES

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### **bit.listserv.medlib-l, MEDLIB-L**

The newsgroup bit.listserv.medlib-l, which is mirrored on the MEDLIB-L mailing list, is aimed at medical and health sciences librarians. It's operated by the Medical Library Association.

#### **Vital Stats:**

Access methods: Usenet newsgroup, E-mail  
To access (Usenet): news:bit.listserv.medlib-l  
To access (mailing list): Send an e-mail message to listserv@listserv.acsu.buffalo.edu  
Subject line:  
Message: **subscribe MEDLIB-L *firstname lastname***  
E-mail: MEDLIB-L-request@listserv.acsu.buffalo.edu

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### **DENTALIB**

The DENTALIB mailing list is a discussion forum for dental librarians. It's operated by the dental section of the Medical Library Association.

#### **Vital Stats:**

Access method: E-mail  
To access: Send an e-mail message to listproc@usc.edu  
Subject line:  
Message: **subscribe DENTALIB *firstname lastname***  
E-mail: fmason@hsc.usc.edu

## Medical/Health Sciences Libraries on the Web

This site has links to Internet sites operated by more than 100 medical libraries around the world. The United States listings are divided by state, and the foreign listings by country. The site is part of the Hardin Meta Directory of Internet Health Sources (p. 15), which is operated by the Hardin Library for the Health Sciences at the University of Iowa.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.arcade.uiowa.edu/hardin-www/hslibs.html>  
E-mail: [eric-rumsey@uiowa.edu](mailto:eric-rumsey@uiowa.edu)

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## National Institutes of Health Library Catalog

This site provides access to the online catalog at the National Institutes of Health Library. The catalog, which lists books and journals in the library's collection, can be searched by author, title, words in the title, subject, and call number.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: Telnet  
To access: <telnet://nih-library.ncrr.nih.gov>

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## National Library of Medicine

The National Library of Medicine site has dozens of bibliographies on such topics as medical treatment of heroin addiction, acupuncture, malaria, thalidomide, genetic testing for cystic fibrosis, interventions to prevent HIV risk behaviors, breast cancer screening in women ages forty to forty-nine, public health informatics, dietary supplements, cervical cancer, and confidentiality of electronic health data, among many others.

It also has links to National Library of Medicine sites that provide free access to the MEDLINE database of references to medical journal articles, Grateful Med software to use in accessing MEDLINE, descriptions of more than forty databases offered by the library, information for visitors and researchers, a sample of images and animation from the Visible Human Project, information about telemedicine projects around the country, a staff directory, and much more.

A mailing list called nlmfiles (below) distributes weekly announcements about new and updated files on the site.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov>  
E-mail: [hyperdoc@nlm.nih.gov](mailto:hyperdoc@nlm.nih.gov)

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## NLM Locator

NLM Locator is the online catalog at the National Library of Medicine, which is the world's largest biomedical library. The library's collection includes 4.9 million items.

The site offers separate catalogs of the library's books, audiovisual materials, and journal titles; information about the library's hours and services; and a searchable database of organizations that provide health information.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: Telnet  
To access: <telnet://locator.nlm.nih.gov>  
Login: **locator**  
E-mail: [ref@nlm.nih.gov](mailto:ref@nlm.nih.gov)

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## nlmfiles

The nlmfiles mailing list distributes weekly announcements about new and updated files on the National Library of Medicine Web site (p. 49).

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: E-mail  
To access: Send an e-mail message to [lists@mailserv.nlm.nih.gov](mailto:lists@mailserv.nlm.nih.gov)  
Subject line:  
Message: **subscribe nlmfiles**  
E-mail: [www.nlm@nlm.nih.gov](mailto:www.nlm@nlm.nih.gov)

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## REFERENCE SOURCES

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### CDC WONDER

CDC WONDER lets you analyze data maintained by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on such subjects as mortality, cancer incidence, hospital discharges, AIDS, behavioral risk factors, diabetes, and other topics. The system also provides access to reports and guidelines prepared by the CDC. While CDC WONDER is aimed at public health professionals, anyone from journalists to academic researchers should find it enormously useful.

You must register online to access the data sets.

#### **Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://wonder.cdc.gov>  
E-mail: [cwus@cdc.gov](mailto:cwus@cdc.gov)

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### Combined Health Information Database

The Combined Health Information Database (CHID) offers more than a dozen databases that provide bibliographic information about journal articles, directories, videotapes, books, bibliographies, newsletters, and reports about various diseases and conditions. The site is a joint effort of the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The site has separate databases with references to materials about AIDS education, Alzheimer's disease, arthritis and musculoskeletal and skin diseases, cancer patient education, cancer prevention and control, comprehensive school health, deafness and

communication disorders, diabetes, digestive diseases, disease prevention and health promotion, epilepsy education and prevention, health promotion and education, kidney and urologic diseases, maternal and child health, medical genetics and rare disorders, oral health, prenatal smoking cessation, and weight control.

You can search an individual database or all the databases together. Each database record provides a title, abstract, and availability information.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://chid.nih.gov>  
E-mail: CHID@aerie.com

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## Complete Home Medical Guide

This site provides the full text of *The Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons Complete Home Medical Guide*. Following is a list of the chapter titles:

- How to Get the Care You Need
- Meeting the Health Care Needs of the Aged and Disabled
- Medical Decision Making: Ethical Considerations
- The Fundamentals of Good Health
- The Basics of Good Nutrition
- Smoking, Alcohol, and Substance Abuse
- Health Concerns During Infancy and Childhood
- The Adolescent Years
- Special Health Concerns of Women
- Health Concerns of Men
- Symptoms and the Diagnostic
- Diagnostic Tests and Procedures
- Basics of CPR and Life Support
- Common First-Aid Procedures
- The Basics of Safety
- Heart and Blood Vessel Diseases
- Cancer
- Infectious Diseases

- HIV Infection and AIDS
- Respiratory Diseases and Lung Health
- Diabetes and Other Endocrine Disorders
- Disorders of the Digestive System
- Blood Disorders
- Disorders of the Musculoskeletal System
- Arthritis
- Brain, Nerve, and Muscle Disorders
- Kidney and Urinary Tract Disorders
- Skin Diseases
- Allergies
- The Eyes
- Diseases of the Ear, Nose, and Throat
- Maintaining Oral Health
- Mental and Emotional Health
- Proper Use of Medications
- Commonly Prescribed Drugs
- Directory of Health Organizations and Resources
- Directory of Regional Poison Control Centers
- Family Medical Records

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
 To access: <http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu/texts/guide/all.html>  
 E-mail: [Webmaster@cpmcnet.columbia.edu](mailto:Webmaster@cpmcnet.columbia.edu)

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**Dr. Felix's Free MEDLINE Page**

This site provides links to all of the Internet sites that offer free access to MEDLINE. MEDLINE is a database created by the National Library of Medicine that contains references to nearly nine million articles from medical journals.

Besides the links, Dr. Felix provides brief summaries of what's provided at each MEDLINE site. Where available, these summaries include the site name, a list of the

available databases, dates of database coverage, frequency of updates, registration requirements, usage restrictions, and details about available document delivery services.

The site also has links to MEDLINE tutorials from various sources, links to other sites that list free MEDLINE sources, and links to papers about MEDLINE.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method:	WWW
To access:	<a href="http://www.docnet.org.uk/felix-frames.html">http://www.docnet.org.uk/felix-frames.html</a>
Mirror:	<a href="http://www.beaker.iupui.edu/dr Felix">http://www.beaker.iupui.edu/dr Felix</a>
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:medline@grhlib.demon.co.uk">medline@grhlib.demon.co.uk</a>

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## HealthGate

The centerpiece of HealthGate is a series of databases created by the National Library of Medicine. HealthGate provides free access to the databases, although some other areas of the site are fee-based. The site is operated by HealthGate Data Corp., a private company.

The National Library of Medicine databases include:

- MEDLINE, which contains bibliographic information for more than eight million journal articles about medicine. Abstracts are available for some of the articles. Coverage is from 1966 to the present, and the database is updated weekly.
- CANCERLIT, which offers bibliographic information and abstracts for journal articles, meeting abstracts, government reports, and other documents about cancer. Coverage is from 1976 to the present, and the database is updated monthly.
- AIDSDRUGS, which has information about drugs and other agents that are currently being tested, or that have previously been tested, in AIDS-related clinical trials. Coverage is from 1980 to the present, and the database is updated bimonthly.
- AIDSLINE, which contains bibliographic information and abstracts for journal articles, technical reports, meetings, books, and other materials about HIV/AIDS. Coverage is from 1980 to the present, and the database is updated bimonthly.
- AIDSTRIALS, which provides information about active and closed clinical trials for drugs and other agents being tested for use with AIDS patients. Coverage is from 1980 to the present, and the database is updated bimonthly.
- BIOETHICSLINE, which has bibliographic information and abstracts for articles about ethical, legal, and policy issues affecting health care. Some of the subjects covered in the database include human experiments, abortion, and euthanasia. Coverage is from 1973 to the present, and the database is updated bimonthly.

- HealthSTAR, which provides bibliographic information and abstracts for journal articles about nonclinical aspects of health care. Some of the subjects covered in the database include health care administration, insurance, and accreditation. Coverage is from 1975 to the present, and the database is updated monthly.

Another useful HealthGate feature not created by the National Library of Medicine is a database that has information on nearly 300 diagnostic procedures. For each procedure, the database provides information about the indications and contraindications, patient preparation, how the procedure is performed, and interpretation of results, among other details. The database was created in 1995 by Lexi-Comp inc., and is updated quarterly.

Finally, for free HealthGate also provides articles and other materials about women's health, men's health, food and nutrition, parenting, and sexuality.

### Vital Stats:

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.healthgate.com>  
E-mail: [support@healthgate.com](mailto:support@healthgate.com)

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## HealthSquare

HealthSquare provides the full text of three books: *PDR Family Guide to Prescription Drugs*, *PDR Family Guide to Women's Health*, and *PDR Family Guide Encyclopedia of Medical Care*. The site is operated by New Media Systems, a private company.

The *PDR Family Guide to Prescription Drugs* has more than twenty chapters, covering heart disease, high blood pressure, arthritis, osteoporosis, digestive disorders, cancer, pain, birth control, allergies, kidney disease, and urinary disorders, among other topics.

The more than three dozen chapters in the *PDR Family Guide to Women's Health* cover a wide range of women's health issues. Some of the topics discussed include PMS, fibroids, urinary tract infections, sexually transmitted diseases, the reproductive system, infertility, contraceptives, pregnancy, prenatal testing, labor and delivery, miscarriage, headaches, diet and health, plastic surgery, breast cancer, cervical cancer, ovarian cancer, stress, mood disorders, eating disorders, sexual assaults, and menopause, among others.

And finally, the *PDR Family Guide Encyclopedia of Medical Care* has hundreds of articles covering everything from abdominal pain to wrist injuries.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.healthsquare.com>  
E-mail: [newmediaso@aol.com](mailto:newmediaso@aol.com)

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## Human Anatomy On-line

Human Anatomy On-line presents dozens of anatomy illustrations. You can click on hot spots on the images to get brief descriptions of each body system. The site also has animations of some body systems, such as the heart pumping. Informative Graphics Corp., a developer of educational software and other products, created the site.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.innerbody.com/indexbody.html>

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## Internet Grateful Med

Internet Grateful Med provides access to eleven databases prepared by the National Library of Medicine that are part of the MEDLARS system. Most of the databases provide bibliographical information for articles published in the medical literature. To help with your searches, the site provides a detailed user's manual.

The premier database is MEDLINE, which has bibliographic information for more than 8.5 million articles published from 1966 to the present. Almost three-quarters of the listings also have an abstract. The data cover more than 3,700 biomedical journals about medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, and the preclinical sciences. The database is updated daily.

Following are brief descriptions of the other databases:

- AIDSDRUGS has records about more than 240 chemical and biological agents that are currently being evaluated in AIDS clinical trials. Each entry includes standard chemical names, synonyms and trade names, CAS Registry Numbers, protocol ID numbers, pharmacological action, adverse reactions and contraindications, physical and chemical properties, and manufacturer's name. The database also contains a bibliography of relevant articles.

- AIDSLINE offers bibliographic citations for more than 124,000 journal articles, government reports, technical reports, books, audiovisual items, and other materials about AIDS published from 1980 to the present. The database is updated weekly.
- AIDSTRIALS has records about more than 700 open and closed clinical trials of substances being tested for use against AIDS, HIV infection, and AIDS-related opportunistic diseases. Each record has information about the title and purpose of the trial, diseases studied, patient eligibility criteria, contact persons, agents tested, and trial locations. The database is updated biweekly.
- DIRLINE contains records about more than 17,000 health and biomedical information sources. The records cover organizations, government agencies, information centers, professional societies, voluntary associations, support groups, academic and research institutions, and research facilities. Each record has the resource name, address, and telephone number, along with descriptions of services, publications, and holdings.
- HealthSTAR provides bibliographic citations for more than 2.5 million journal articles, technical and government reports, meeting papers, and books published from 1975 to the present. The items cover both clinical and nonclinical aspects of medicine, including such topics as evaluation of patient outcomes, effectiveness of procedures and programs, health care administration, and health care planning. The database is updated monthly.
- HISTLINE offers about 155,000 bibliographic records for monographs, journal articles, books, and other materials about the history of health related professions. The database covers publications from 1964 to the present, and it's updated weekly.
- HSRPROJ provides about 3,000 records concerning research in progress that's funded by federal and private grants and contracts. The types of information available for each project vary, but frequently include a project summary, the names of performing and sponsoring agencies, the name and address of the principal investigator, the beginning and ending years of the project, and the study design and methodology. The database is updated quarterly.
- OLDMEDLINE has bibliographic information for articles published in international biomedical journals from 1964 to 1965. The database contains more than 307,000 records.
- PREMEDLINE is a database started in August 1996 that provides basic bibliographic information and abstracts for new materials that are in the process of being indexed for MEDLINE. The database is updated every weekday. Once a record is fully indexed, it's added to MEDLINE and deleted from PREMEDLINE.
- SDILINE has bibliographic information for all materials added to MEDLINE in the most recent complete month. The database is updated monthly, and usually offers about 31,000 new citations each month.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://igm.nlm.nih.gov>  
E-mail: [access.nlm.nih.gov](mailto:access.nlm.nih.gov)

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**Merck & Co.**

This site provides the full text of *The Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy*, a widely used textbook that's more commonly known simply as *The Merck Manual*. You can browse through individual chapters or search the entire book.

The online version is the sixteenth edition, which was published in 1992. A new edition is scheduled to be published in early 1999.

The manual's twenty-three chapters cover infectious disease, immunology and allergic disorders, cardiovascular disorders, pulmonary disorders, gastrointestinal disorders, hepatic and biliary disorders, nutritional and metabolic disorders, endocrine disorders, hematology and oncology, musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders, neurologic disorders, psychiatric disorders, genitourinary disorders, gynecology and obstetrics, pediatrics and genetics, otolaryngology, ophthalmologic disorders, dermatologic disorders, dental and oral disorders, disorders due to physical agents, special subjects, clinical pharmacology, and poisoning and bites.

The site also has the full text of two chapters from *The Merck Manual of Medical Information—Home Edition*, a book aimed at consumers that is based on the textbook. The chapters cover women's health and heart and blood vessel disorders.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.merck.com>

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**National Health Information Center**

Databases at this site tell how to contact more than 1,000 organizations and government offices that offer health information. The databases also have links to Web sites operated by those groups that have them. The site also has a calendar of national health observances that includes contact information for each event.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://nhic-nt.health.org>  
E-mail: [nhicinfo@health.org](mailto:nhicinfo@health.org)

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## OneLook Dictionaries

OneLook provides links to more than two dozen medical dictionaries and glossaries on the Internet. The site is operated by Study Technologies.

If you prefer, instead of browsing through individual dictionaries you can search all 220 dictionaries and glossaries indexed by OneLook. This is a very handy feature if you want to quickly compare how various dictionaries define a word.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.onelook.com/browse.shtml>  
E-mail: [bware@onelook.com](mailto:bware@onelook.com)

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## PubMed

PubMed provides free searching of all nine million citations in MEDLINE, a database that provides bibliographical information for the biomedical literature. It also contains citations that have not yet been entered in MEDLINE.

MEDLINE is a database created by the National Library of Medicine that covers the fields of medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, the health care system, and the preclinical sciences. The database has citations from more than 3,800 biomedical journals published in the United States and seventy foreign countries. Records are available dating back to 1966.

PubMed is operated by the National Center for Biotechnology Information at the National Library of Medicine.

**Vital Stats:**

Access method: WWW  
To access: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed>  
E-mail: [info@ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](mailto:info@ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)

## Social Statistics Briefing Room

The health page at the Social Statistics Briefing Room has links to various national health statistics. The briefing room is part of the Welcome to the White House Web site.

The links lead to statistics on the birth rate, infant mortality rate, life expectancy, use of health services, proportion of women over age fifty who have had a mammogram within the previous two years, firearm-related deaths, Lyme disease, and health insurance coverage. The statistics were compiled by the National Center for Health Statistics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### **Vital Stats:**

Access method:	WWW
To access:	<a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/fsbr/health.html">http://www.whitehouse.gov/fsbr/health.html</a>
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:feedback@www.whitehouse.gov">feedback@www.whitehouse.gov</a>