

Websites for Medical Information

(Carolyn Nagler; Nov. 9, 2010)

A. Evaluating Health Information

(<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/webeval/webeval.html>) This is the address for the tutorial video shown at today's presentation. Some issues to consider with each site follow:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Provider | Who is in charge of the Web site?
Why are they providing the site?
Can you contact them? |
| Funding | Where does the money to support the sit come from?
Does the site have advertisements? Are they labeled? |
| Quality | Where does the information on the site come from?
How is content selected?
Do experts review the information that goes on the site?
Does the site avoid unbelievable or emotional claims?
Is it up-to-date? |
| Privacy | Does the site ask for your personal information?
Do they tell you how it will be used?
Are you comfortable with how it will be used |

B. Basic Medical Sites

1. **MedlinePlus** (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/>) This site should be your primary “go-to” for basic health information. It represents your tax dollars at work. See also **NIH Senior Health** (<http://nihseniorhealth.gov/>)
2. **Mayo Clinic** (<http://www.mayoclinic.com/>)
3. **Johns Hopkins** A wealth of excellent free information is available by Googling “Johns Hopkins+(your disease or condition of interest)” for further exploration.

C. Specific Disease or Condition Sites

1. **Cancer** (<http://www.cancer.gov/>) Click on a Common Cancer Types (your choice); select “patient” rather than “professional”.
2. **Kidney Diseases/Problems** (www.kidney.org) Click on “Kidney Disease” for a list of helpful topics, including dialysis.
3. **American Heart Association** (<http://www.heart.org/heartorg/>)
4. **American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons:** Patient information ...
<http://orthoinfo.aaos.org/>.

5. American Lung Association (<http://www.lungusa.org/>).

D. Other Medical/Health Sites

1. Drug Digest (<http://www.drugdigest.org/wps/portal/ddigest>)
2. Clinical Trials.gov (<http://clinicaltrials.gov>)
3. Medicare (<http://www.medicare.gov>)
4. MyMedicare (<https://www.mymedicare.gov>) Note that this secure site requires registration.
5. Healthfinder (<http://www.healthfinder.gov>)
6. Affordable Health Care Act (<http://healthcare.gov>) All about the new healthcare law.
7. FDA (<http://www.fda.gov>)

E. Erickson Sites

1. Erickson Health Portal (<https://myhealth.erickson.com/login.aspx>)
2. My Nutrition (<http://mynutrition.erickson.com/gsv/form2.aspx>)
3. The Village Bridge (<http://www.thevillagebridge.net>) This is the central website for Greenspring ... very worthwhile to explore.

F. Miscellaneous Sites

1. Virginia Health Information (<http://www.vhi.org/>) Recognized as the source for health data reporting (home care providers, nursing facilities, etc.) in Virginia.
2. Senior Navigator
(<http://www.seniornavigator.com/vaprovider/consumer/snConsumerHome.do>) Provides information on support resources for seniors, caregivers, adults with disabilities and their families.
3. disAbility Navigator
<http://www.disabilitynavigator.org/vaprovider/consumer/indexDisabilityNavigator.do>
Provides free information about health and aging resources available to Virginians.
4. Inova Health System (<http://inova.org/>) You select the Inova hospital of interest (e.g., Fairfax, Alexandria, Fair Oaks) and find where to park, how to get there, visitor hours, etc.
5. <http://data.medicare.gov> This site is where the government makes available to the public large amounts of data collected by Medicare on hospitals, nursing homes, etc.