Medical Library Association’s Most Useful Consumer Health Websites

Cancer.gov (http://www.cancer.gov/) is the official website for The National Cancer Institute (NCI), a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The NCI is the Federal Government’s principal agency for cancer research and training. This site features information on all types of cancer, cancer terms and drugs, statistics, clinical trials, etc.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (http://www.cdc.gov/) is an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services. Of special interest to the consumer are the resources about diseases, conditions, and other special topics arranged under "Health Topics A-Z," and "Travelers' Health," with health recommendations for travelers worldwide. There are also sections on health topics in the news and health hoaxes. Information is also available in Spanish.

familydoctor.org (http://familydoctor.org/) is operated by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), a national medical organization representing more than 93,700 family physicians, family practice residents and medical students. All of the information on this site has been written and reviewed by physicians and patient education professionals at the AAFP.

Healthfinder® (http://www.healthfinder.gov/) is a gateway consumer health information website whose goal is "to improve consumer access to selected health information from government agencies, their many partner organizations, and other reliable sources that serve the public interest." Menu lists on its home page provide links to online journals, medical dictionaries, minority health, and prevention and self-care. The developer and sponsor of this site is the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Department of Health and Human Services, with other agencies that also can be linked to via the site. Access to resources on the site is also available in Spanish.

HIV InSite (http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu/) is a project of the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) AIDS Research Institute. Designed as a gateway to in-depth information about particular aspects of HIV/AIDS, it provides numerous links to many authoritative sources. Subjects are arranged into "Key Topics" and the site may also be searched by key words. Many items are provided in full text, and information is available in English and Spanish.

Kidshealth® (http://www.kidshealth.org/) provides doctor-approved health information about children from before birth through adolescence. Created by The Nemours Foundation's Center for Children’s Health Media, KidsHealth provides families with accurate, up-to-date, and jargon-free health information they can use.

MayoClinic (http://www.mayoclinic.com/) is an extension of the Mayo Clinic's commitment to provide health education to patients and the general public. Editors of the site include more than 2,000 physicians, scientists, writers, and educators at the Mayo Clinic, a nonprofit institution with more than 100 years of history in patient care, medical research, and education. The website has added interactive tools to assist consumers in managing their health. This site supersedes the previous site, Mayo Clinic Health Oasis.

MedlinePlus (http://medlineplus.gov/) is the National Library of Medicine's website for consumer health information. The site offers authoritative, up-to-date health information. Resources include physician and hospital directories; several online medical dictionaries; interactive health tutorials; information about prescription and over-the-counter medicines, plus herbs and supplements; videos on human anatomy and various surgical procedures; and health information in about 50 languages. A site for cell phones and other mobile devices is at http://m.medlineplus.gov.

NIH SeniorHealth (http://nihseniorhealth.gov) features authoritative aging-related health information from the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the National Library of Medicine (NLM). Site is specially designed to be senior-friendly and easy to navigate.