

## Medication & Dictionary Sites

\*[www.drugs.com](http://www.drugs.com): Search for information on medications. Click on the “Drug Interactions Checker” to find potential interactions. Also has a pill identification database.

\*<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/mplusdictionary.html>: Merriam-Webster’s medical dictionary, through MedlinePlus.

\*[www.questdiagnostics.com](http://www.questdiagnostics.com): Information on medical tests, the procedures, and interpreting results.

\*[www.rxlist.com](http://www.rxlist.com): Prescription medication site sponsored by WedMD.

## Clinical Trials

Search for clinical trials by condition and location:

\*[www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov)

\*[www.centerwatch.com](http://www.centerwatch.com)

## Finding a Doctor

\***American Medical Association:** <http://www.ama-assn.org>. Click on “Doctor Finder”. Searchable by name, specialty, location.

\***ABMS, American Board of Medical Specialties:** [www.abms.org](http://www.abms.org). You are required to register, which is free, but the site only provides names of physicians. Does allow for name, geographic, and/or specialty searches. See the library’s print edition in Reference for more information on the doctor.

\***Illinois Department of Professional Regulation:** <http://www.idpr.com/license.asp>. The IDPR is the agency that oversees licensure of professionals. Allows for search by license number or name and profession. Will not list any legal actions or suits; will only show if the person has been disciplined and if the license is current.

\***MedlinePlus Directories:** <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/directories.html>. A listing of directory websites; allows searching by specialty. Includes dentists and other health care providers.

## Nutrition & Physical Fitness

\***American Heart Association:** [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org). Click on “Healthy Lifestyle”

\***About.com Health & Fitness:** <http://home.about.com/health>

\***National Association for Health and Fitness:** [www.physicalfitness.org](http://www.physicalfitness.org)

# Finding Medical Information Online



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Northbrook Public Library  
1201 Cedar Lane  
Northbrook, IL 60062

Phone: 847-272-62245  
Fax: 847-498-0440  
E-mail: [nbkref@nsls.info](mailto:nbkref@nsls.info)

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# Finding Medical Information on the Internet

## Using Subscription Databases

The library subscribes to several newspaper, magazine and journal databases, most of which are available remotely\*. **Proquest, Ebscohost, FirstSearch (which includes Medline), and eLibrary** will allow you to search using keywords to find related articles (e.g., “breast cancer”, “rheumatoid arthritis”, “peripheral neuropathy”, etc.) While most of the articles will be available in full-text in these databases, some will only provide citations. If you wish to pursue retrieving such an article, see a Reference Librarian about ordering the article. There is a \$1 fee for the request, and other charges may apply.

To access most of the library's databases from home go to:  
[www.northbrook.info](http://www.northbrook.info)

Click on the “Library” tab, and then click on “Online Databases” on the left side of the screen. From there, select a database and enter your library card number (without spaces) when prompted.

## Using Free Sites

There are two ways to search for medical information online: Using a search engine or searching within specific medical sites.

**Google.com** is an excellent search engine. Searching is done by entering keywords related to your topic.

Using some of the following techniques can improve your search results:

- Use quotation marks when searching for an exact phrase, e.g., “rheumatoid arthritis”, “diabetes mellitus”, “tennis elbow”, etc.
- Use the “+” or “-” signs to include (+) or exclude (-) words from your search: “breast cancer” -UK to eliminate sites from the United Kingdom; diabetes +diet to find sites on diabetic nutrition.
- Use the tilde sign (~) when searching for topics that may go by other names, e.g., ~”lou gehrig’s disease”.

There are numerous health and medical websites designed for the consumer. Most are easy to search, written in non-technical language, and created by reliable organizations or businesses. Below is a list of some recommended medical sites for general information:

## General Medical Sites

\***Cancer.gov:** [www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov)

\***Healthfinder:** [www.healthfinder.gov](http://www.healthfinder.gov)

\***Intelihealth:** [www.intelihealth.com](http://www.intelihealth.com), content provided by Harvard Medical School’s Consumer Health Information.

\***Mayo Clinic:** [www.mayoclinic.com](http://www.mayoclinic.com)

\***Medem:** <http://medem.com/>

\***MedlinePlus from the National Institutes of Health:** [www.medlineplus.com](http://www.medlineplus.com)

\***Merck Manual Online:**  
[www.merck.com/mmhe/index.html](http://www.merck.com/mmhe/index.html)

\***National Institute of Mental Health:**  
[www.nimh.nih.gov](http://www.nimh.nih.gov)

\***PubMed:** Go to <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov> and click on “PubMed” in the upper left corner of the site. PubMed is a database of over 15 million biomedical article citations going back to the 1950s.

\***WebMD:** [www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com) A reputable commercial site.

## Complementary & Alternative Medicine (CAM) Sites



### Alternative Medicine

### Homepage from the Uni-

versity of Pittsburgh: [www.pitt.edu/~cbw/altm.html](http://www.pitt.edu/~cbw/altm.html)

**National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine:** [www.nccam.nih.gov](http://www.nccam.nih.gov)

Browse health topics.