

Intended Users:	Consumers	Healthcare Providers	Information Professionals	Researchers
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MedlinePlus and MedlinePlus Española

Description: MedlinePlus is a free, online health information resource, available in English and Spanish. This site offers patient-friendly

information on general health and wellness topics, descriptions of medical tests, and a medical encyclopedia with over 4,000 articles. MedlinePlus also includes human genetic information such as genomic research and personalized medicine, drug and supplement information, and healthy recipe ideas.

Popular uses of this product:

Consumers	Healthcare Providers	Information Professionals	Researchers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look up health information for yourself, a family member, or a loved one. • Gain a better understanding of your health, diagnosis, or treatment options. • Find videos, tools, and games to increase health literacy skills of adults and children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage patients to use MedlinePlus as a health information resource. • For patients with dietary or nutritional needs, recommend looking up recipes on MedlinePlus. • Use MedlinePlus Connect to link electronic health records (EHRs) to MedlinePlus content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find health information resources in multiple languages. • Guide people through the sections and resources within MedlinePlus. • Help patrons browse through different topics or help them search for specific information. • Find pre-generated PubMed searches for many health topics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find plain language resources on a variety of health topics. • Find other organizations involved in research, awareness, or patient support for specific conditions or diseases.

Key Points:

1. MedlinePlus has six main sections: Health Topics, Drugs and Supplements, Genetics, Medical Tests, Medical Encyclopedia, and Healthy Recipes.
2. The purpose of MedlinePlus is to provide ad-free, reliable, and easy-to-read health information for consumers.

Potential Predicaments:

1. MedlinePlus strives to provide links to other reliable, up-to-date organizations. Content on third-party sites may be updated at a different frequency than MedlinePlus.
2. The MedlinePlus website is fully available in Spanish (except for some of the Genetics content) and has links to health information in [multiple languages](#).

Teaching Examples:

1. Have participants browse the “Health Topics” section and find a topic related to “Body Locations/Systems.” Search for that topic and compare how results are brought up when browsing versus searching.
2. Have participants search for the brand name drug “Zyrtec” (cetirizine). Refine results by selecting “Drugs and Supplements.” Look for other brand names for this medication.

Real Life Examples:

1. A patient was told they need to medical test to look for certain genetic mutations, called a MTHFR test. The doctor explained what the test was, but they would like more information. They look up MTHFR Mutation Test on MedlinePlus to learn about the purpose of the test, associated risks, and what the test results could mean.

2. A patient has been recently diagnosed with type 2 diabetes and wants to learn more. They go to the Health Topics pages to explore information about diabetes, and they find links to resources about living with diabetes.

MedlinePlus Sections

Health Topics:

The Health Topics pages are an easy way to browse information about diseases, illnesses, health conditions, and general wellness topics. This part of MedlinePlus is the largest and most commonly used section of the website. People should be guided to these pages first. These pages provide information on medical diagnoses, treatments, current research, resources to find experts, specific issues related to age or gender, and patient handouts. The Health Topics pages also include links to other National Institutes of Health (NIH) sites or health organizations that provide health information.

Drugs and Supplements:

MedlinePlus has information on over 1,000 drugs and 175 supplements. Drug information is licensed by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Inc. Herb and supplement information is provided by the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) and licensed from the Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database. Each page provides information about what the medication is used for, side effects, precautions, storage, and other important drug information.

Genetics:

The Genetics section provides information on genetics and how they can affect health, genetic conditions, genes, chromosomes, and mtDNA. The *Help Me Understand Genetics* section tells people about how genes work, genetic testing, genetic inheritance, gene therapy, and new advances in research. The other sections can be browsed alphabetically or by chromosome number. The Genetics section is still being translated into Spanish.

Medical Tests:

The Medical Tests pages provide information about common medical tests, what they are used for, why they are ordered, what to expect during a test, and possible results. These pages answer common questions about medical tests and provide links to related health conditions and other tests.

Medical Encyclopedia:

The Medical Encyclopedia includes over 4,000 articles about diseases, tests, symptoms, and surgeries. Content is provided by A.D.A.M. and is continuously updated.

Healthy Recipes:

The Healthy Recipes section focuses on how diet and nutrition can impact wellness. This section provides recipes for a variety of dietary needs and food preferences. The recipes show how to prepare tasty, healthy meals that encourage people to develop healthy eating patterns. Nutritional and serving size information is also available.

More Information:

[MedlinePlus Newsletter](#) [General Info](#) [Using MedlinePlus](#) [Info for Developers](#) [MedlinePlus Connect](#)

Commercial Equivalents (sites may have advertising):

[WebMD](#) – Trending health topics, personal health calculators, articles, opinions, and news about health.

[Healthline](#) – Content is reviewed by medical professionals. The site offers communities for people with chronic diseases.

[Drugs.com](#) – Offers pill identification, layman’s terms for uses, side effects, dosage, and interactions.