Intended Users:	Consumers	Healthcare Providers	Information Professionals	Researchers

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 thousands of 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
• Find 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 your health literacy.	• Use MedlinePlus Connect to link electronic health records systems (EHRs) to MedlinePlus content. • Encourage patients to use MedlinePlus as a health information resource. • For patients with dietary or nutritional needs, refer to recipes on MedlinePlus.	• Find health information resources in English and Spanish. • 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.	• 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. MedlinePlus provides ad-free, reliable, and easy-to-read health information for consumers.
3. The MedlinePlus website is fully available in Spanish. Toggle between English and Spanish using the link in the upper right of any page.

Potential Predicaments:

1. Content on third-party sites may be updated at a different frequency than MedlinePlus.

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 appear 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 a MTHFR genetic test. The doctor explained what the test was, but they would like more information. They look up MTHFR 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.

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MedlinePlus Sections

Health Topics:
Use the Health Topics pages to browse information about diseases, illnesses, health conditions, and general wellness topics. This is the largest and most used section of MedlinePlus. Guide people 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 thousands of drugs and hundreds of 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), the NIH Office of Dietary Supplements, and other Institutes, 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.

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 thousands of 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 affect 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:
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.