

# Health Information for Your Patients

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# Welcome!



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Partner Outreach  
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Organization**



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# Disclaimer:

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We are not clinicians, and we cannot give health advice.

But we can show you where free health information is located online.



# Answer in the Chat:

Do you work in health information? If so, what is your role?  
(physician, nurse, pharmacist, therapist, learner, etc.)

What do you hope to learn from this session today?



# Our Goal

To provide you with a list of health resources that are freely available online and written for the general public.

Our hope is that you will share these resources with patients, clients or other people in your life needing access to health information.



# What is Consumer Health Information?

- A health consumer is anyone who receives health care
- Consumer health information is created for the consumer (instead of the healthcare provider)
- Information should be easy to read and not require advanced knowledge of medical topics





What types of consumer health  
resources come to mind?





**But...**

**Not all Consumer Health Resources are Equal**



# Compare these two websites:

The screenshot shows the WebMD website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'HEALTH A-Z', 'DRUGS & SUPPLEMENTS', 'LIVING HEALTHY', 'FAMILY & PREGNANCY', and 'NEWS & EXPERTS'. A search bar is located on the right. Below the navigation, there is an advertisement for Wegovy with the text 'Get tips for weight-loss conversation starters'. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail 'A to Z Guides > Slideshows' and a title 'Guide to Sickle Cell Disease'. Below the title, it says 'Medically Reviewed by Carmelita Swiner, MD on November 30, 2022'. A large image shows a cross-section of a blood vessel with sickle-shaped red blood cells. Below the image, the text reads 'What is Sickle Cell Disease?' and 'These inherited blood disorders make red blood cells stiff and crescent-'. There is also an advertisement for TaxAct on the right side of the page.

The screenshot shows the MedlinePlus website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text 'Search MedlinePlus' and a 'GO' button. Below the search bar, there are navigation links for 'Health Topics', 'Drugs & Supplements', 'Genetics', 'Medical Tests', and 'Medical Encyclopedia'. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail 'Home -> Health Topics -> Sickle Cell Disease' and a title 'Sickle Cell Disease'. Below the title, it says 'Also called: Hemoglobin SS disease, Sickle cell anemia'. There is a 'On this page' section with links for 'Basics', 'Learn More', and 'See, Play and Learn'. Below this, there are sections for 'Research', 'Resources', and 'For You'. A 'Summary' section is visible, with the text 'What is sickle cell disease (SCD)?' and a paragraph describing the condition. On the right side, there is a 'MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA' section with links for 'Hemoglobin electrophoresis', 'Hemoglobinuria test', 'Sickle cell anemia', 'Sickle cell test', and 'Total iron binding capacity'.



# Online Health Resources

How do you make sure information is credible? What elements do you look for on a website to know if it is trustworthy?

Ask yourself:

- Who created the information?
- Who funds the website?
- Is the information based on medical or scientific research?



# Starting Your Search



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# Freely-Available Health Information

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### Welcome!

Access to reliable and timely medical and health information is vitally important to health professionals, consumers/patients and students of all ages. There are a number of free or subsidized resources that are available to everyone, even if they are not affiliated with a healthcare organization, hospital, or medical library. Check out the menu for this guide to see health resources for different audiences.

If you have any questions on how to find freely-available and reliable health resources, please email [medlref@iu.edu](mailto:medlref@iu.edu)





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# Website Demos



# Discussion

- Which resources do you see yourself sharing with others?
- What is appealing about these resources?
- What types of resources are you still needing/looking for?





# Deciding Which Resources to Share

- Consider your patient regarding disease or condition, language, and regional location
- Does your patient express discomfort with government sources?
- Print off webpages if the patient has limited access to the internet - Most resources online are only a few pages when printed
- Encourage patients to use credible sources when searching online - Recommend searching within a health resource such as MedlinePlus or Merck Manuals



# Let's Apply What We Learned

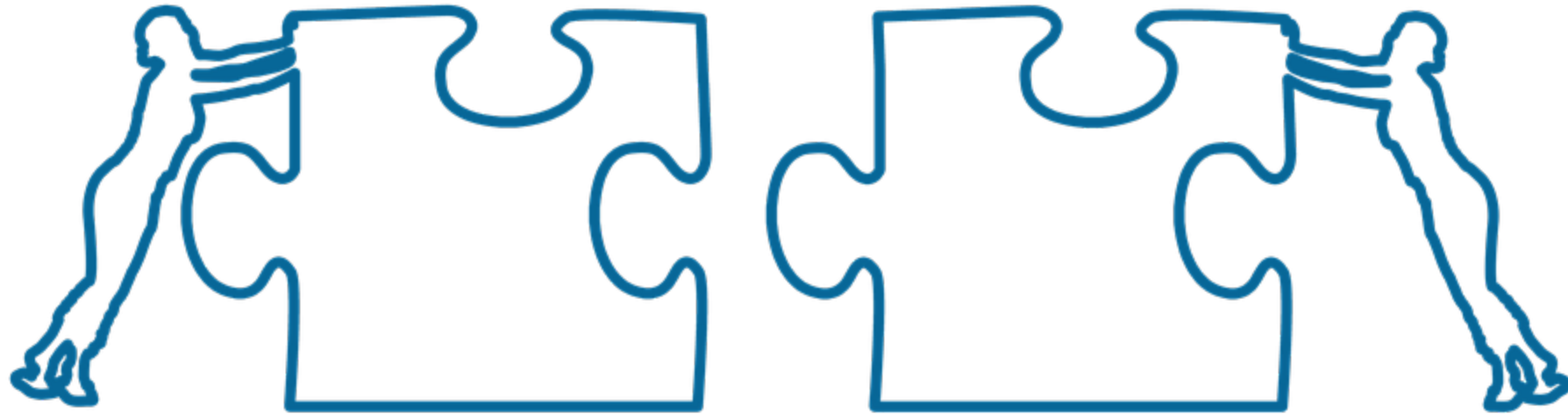


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# Hands on Searching Scenario

You work in a primary care setting and your patient has recently been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. The patient asks for resources so they can learn more about managing their disease.



## In the Chat:

- What factors would you consider when selecting online resources for the patient?
- What online health information would you share with the patient?



# Additional Activity

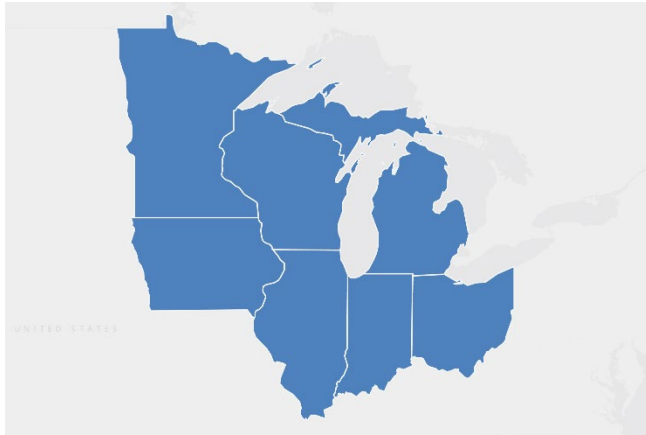
Think of a patient/client you support

- What factors would you consider when selecting online resources for the patient/client?
- What is one online consumer health resource you could share?



**What questions do you have for us?**





The mission of the NNLM is to provide U.S. researchers, health professionals, public health workforce, educators, and the public with equal access to biomedical and health information resources and data.



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