

Resources

Web Sites of Worth

In medical practice today, computers are more likely to be used for literature searches than for anything else. Given the increasingly easy access to the Internet, the dramatic improvements in search engines, and the explosion of new, easy-to-use, electronic products that link large databases with point-and-click technology, the power of computers to help Medicare providers keep up with the literature is unquestionable.

Computer-based medical literature searches, however, can be as frustrating as they are liberating. They can eat up hours of time, and still not yield all or the best articles. To help maximize your time on the Internet, *MPM* would like to offer up 3 Web sites that provide true value to today's busy health care professional.

Google Scholar

www.scholar.google.com

Google Scholar provides a simple way to broadly search for scholarly literature. From a single location, you can search across many disciplines and sources: peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, abstracts, and articles from academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories, universities, and other scholarly organizations. Google Scholar can help you identify the most relevant information and research on enhancing care for seniors with Medicare coverage.

On Google Scholar, you can:

- search diverse sources from 1 convenient Web site;
- find papers, abstracts, and citations;
- locate the complete paper through your library or on the Web; and
- learn about key papers in any area of research.

Google Scholar orders your search results by relevance, with the most useful references appearing at the top of the page. Google-ranking technology considers the full text of each article, the author, the publication in which the article appeared, and how often the piece has been cited in other scholarly literature.

Google Book Search

www.booksgoogle.com

In 1996, Google co-founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page were graduate computer science students working on a research project supported by the Stanford Digital Library Technologies Project. Their goal was to make digital libraries work. Their “big idea” was: in a future world in which vast collections of books are digitized, people would use a “web crawler” to index the books’ content and analyze the connections between them, determining any given book’s relevance and usefulness by tracking the number and quality of citations from other books. After years of effort, their big idea is the reality known as Google Book Search.

The book content in Google Book Search comes primarily from 2 sources: publishers and libraries. Google Book Search allows you to search the full text of books to find ones that interest you and learn where to buy or borrow them. Just do a search on Google Book Search and when a book whose content contains a match for your search terms, it is linked to your search results. Clicking on a book title lets you see a “Snippet View” which, like a card catalog,

shows information about the book plus a few sentences with your search term in context. You may also see the “Sample Pages View” if the publisher or author has given permission, or the “Full Book View” if the book is out of copyright. In all cases, you’ll also see “Buy this Book” links that lead directly to online bookstores where you can buy the book.

Once you’ve found a book you like, the following options are available:

1. **“Buy the Book”**: Click on 1 of the links to online booksellers and go directly to a Web site where you can buy the book.
2. **“Search Again”**: Find more results for your original search terms in other parts of the book, or try a new search within the book.
3. **“Find Reviews”**: Choose “About This Book,” then click “Web Search for Reviews” to find online reviews of the book.
4. **“Find Related Information”**: Choose “About This Book” and click on “Other Web Pages Related to ...” to find other Web sites that mention the book.
5. **“Learn About the Publisher”**: Click through to the publisher’s Web site to find more books from that publisher.
6. **“Find It in a Library”**: If the book is a library book, you can find a local library that has it by clicking “Find It in a Library” and entering your zip code.

About RxList®

www.RxList.com

About RxList® is a unique site that lets you perform searches that you probably didn’t even think existed. On the About RxList® advanced search page, there are 5 search options:

- **RxList®-ID (Imprint) Search**: This search allows you to identify mystery generic and branded medications from the alphanumeric characters and other markings (imprint codes) on capsules and tablets.
- **RxList® Search**: Search the RxList® data-

base for brand name, generic name, and pharmacologic category. Many of the most popular entries have links to professional- and/or patient-oriented material.

- **Keyword Search**: Search the body of the “Professional Monographs” and the “RxList® Alternatives” content by keywords, such as interactions, side effects, foreign brand names, etc.
- **Drug FAQs/Patient Monographs**: Use this search option to find drug information written in plain English.
- **Search Medical Dictionary**: About RxList® gives you access to the full *Taber’s Medical Encyclopedia* of more than 55,000 medical terms.

And About RxList® doesn’t stop there. Other features on this Web site include:

- **The Top 200**: A list of the top 200 prescriptions, showing the total number of prescriptions written for each drug by year, beginning in 1995. The Top 200 is based on the *NDCHealth Pharmaceutical Audit Suite (PHAS) Prescription Monthly*.
- **RxBoard**: A forum for discussions about the top most-searched drugs on About RxList®. Click on a specific drug name (listed in descending order of popularity on the About RxList® Search) to read and leave messages.
- **General Board**: A discussion board for drugs not included in The Top 200. Significant discussions within the General Board will spawn new specific boards.
- **Alternative Board**: A site that allows you to read and leave messages on alternative therapies. Significant discussions on the Alternative Board will also give rise to new alternative specific boards.

Conducting electronic searches of the medical literature has become a necessary skill for performing research, practicing modern evidence-based medicine, and keeping up on the latest developments in Medicare, which as you know too well, occur on an almost daily basis. These 3 Web sites are exceptional resources to help you accomplish these goals. MPM