

16 - COMMERCIAL MEDICAL WEB-SITES

The Internet has a plethora of medical sites. In the Yahoo directory, alone, it lists over 4,000; and that is a short list. Many of these are philanthropic or public service in their orientation and ownership (i.e., governmental or academic or private); and most universities have health or medical sites, usually associated with their School of Public Health or their School of Medicine. In addition, some sites are commercial, either selling particular products or providing news and sustained by selling advertising. Of the latter type, three popular sites are briefly reviewed here. These can be classified as medical news and opinion sites. Keep in mind that although they offer opinions and report medical information, none of these sites is actually in the practice of medicine. They do not conduct any science, but, instead, report the science of others. These sources rely on news-wire services and the MEDLINE database and other primary sources of information which have already been covered here. If you are a patient or facilitator, it is not sufficient to go to your doctor and suggest some approach to therapy based on what you have read on a particular web-site. Those may be an initial source of ideas, but they should still be researched by the procedures as described in sections 1- 4.



Doctor Internet

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16(A) WEBMD

Consolidating three other sites, "Healtheon" "Medcase" and "Mede American", WebMD is a "comprehensive on-line health resource ... committed to serving all your health information and support needs."

[<http://www.webmd.com>]



16(B) HEALTHCENTRAL

This site features the media doctor, Dean Edell, M.D., and includes news items, personalized health profile, discussion groups, and a search function to find health information.

[<http://www.healthcentral.com>]



16(C) MDCHOICE

Designed as a "medical information finder", it is a portal for physicians and consumers.

[<http://www.mdchoice.com>]

