



THE NAVY BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY

# Health Educator Guide to MedlinePlus

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Prepared by the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center

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## What is MedlinePlus?

[MedlinePlus](https://medlineplus.gov) (https://medlineplus.gov) is a website created by the National Library of Medicine and is dedicated to providing free, quality, and up-to-date education resources and information in plain language on over 1,000 health topics in many languages. The website features resources from the National Library of Medicine, the National Institute of Health, other U.S. government agencies, and health-related organizations. It also uses a variety of platforms to provide education, including patient education handouts, videos, daily news articles, and interactive quizzes and games. You can access MedlinePlus by clicking on the widget at the top right corner of the Medical Home Port Population Health milBook group page (See Figure 1).

*MedlinePlus is not a substitute for information given by a primary care provider and should not be used for diagnosing or self-treatment.*

### User Tip

- ✓ Add MedlinePlus to the Favorites Bar on your internet browser for quick access to the most current resources.
- ✓ The MedlinePlus website is accessible through multiple internet browsers. However, if you experience issues accessing any pages on the website, try using a different browser (e.g., Google Chrome).

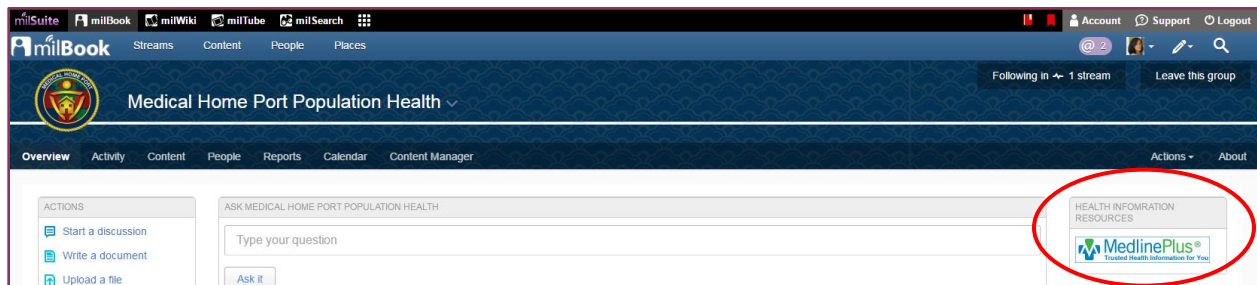


Figure 1 MedlinePlus Widget on milBook

## How can I find resources on MedlinePlus?

To search for a specific topic, you can type the topic into the search bar on the top right side of the homepage or select “Health Topics” (See Figure 2).

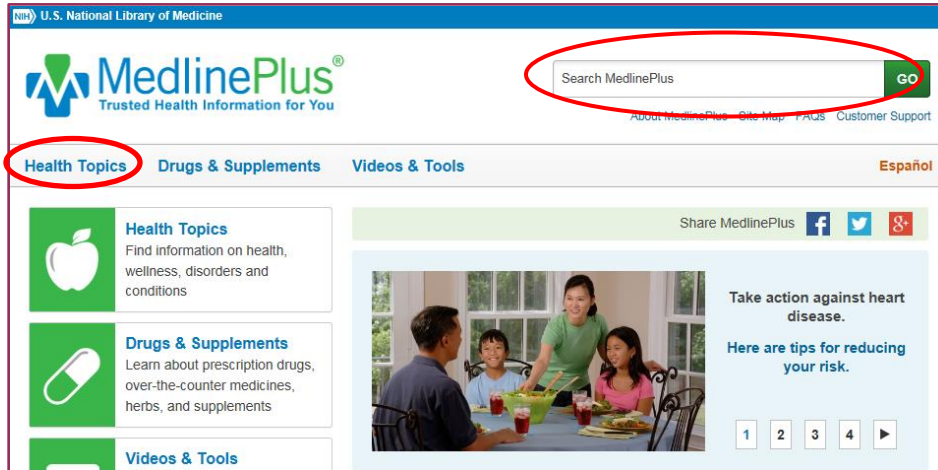


Figure 2. MedlinePlus Homepage

On the “Health Topics” page, you can lookup the topic by the first letter or select “List All Topics” and choose from the list. For example, if you are interested in finding resources about diabetes, you can type “diabetes” into the search bar, select Health Topics and click on “D”, or select “Diabetes” from the “List All Topics” option (See Figure 3). All three of these methods will lead you to resources.

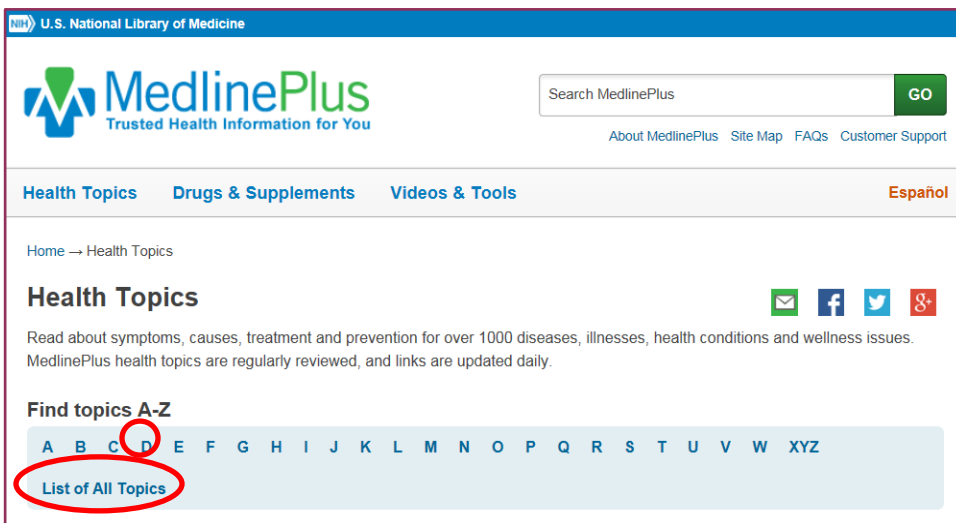


Figure 3. Health Topics Homepage



## What information is provided on MedlinePlus?

Each “Health Topic” page follows the same format and provides the following information: additional names of the health topic; an overview of the health topic which includes symptoms, prevention, risk factors and treatments; interactive lessons and games; clinical research; links to organizations with expertise on the topic; and resources specific for different groups (See Figure 4).

### User Tip

- ✓ MedlinePlus collects resources from a range of trusted health agencies. Instead of searching through multiple websites or creating resources, save time by going to MedlinePlus first.

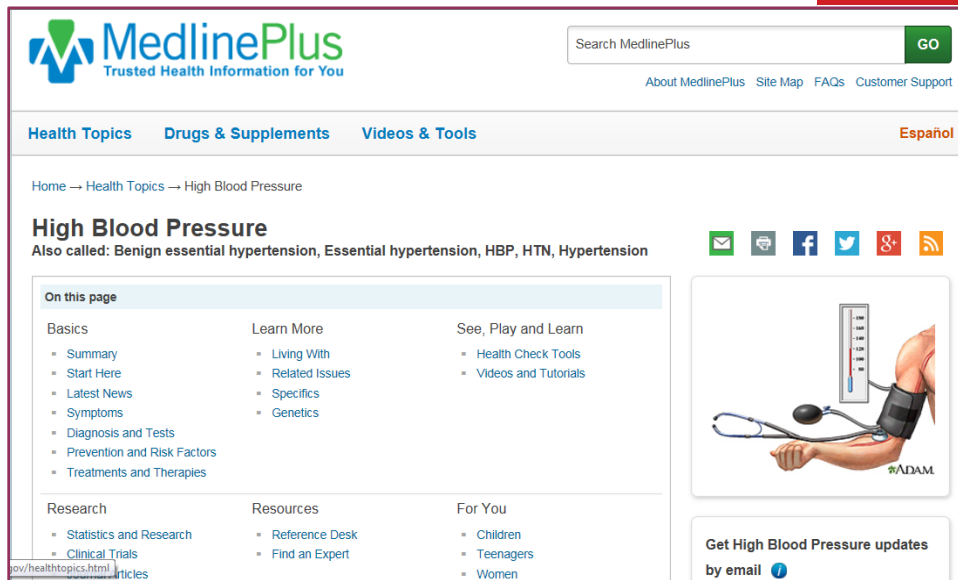


Figure 4. High Blood Pressure Search Results Homepage

Along with information about a variety of health topics, MedlinePlus provides information from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists on prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines, dietary supplements, and herbal remedies (See Figure 5).

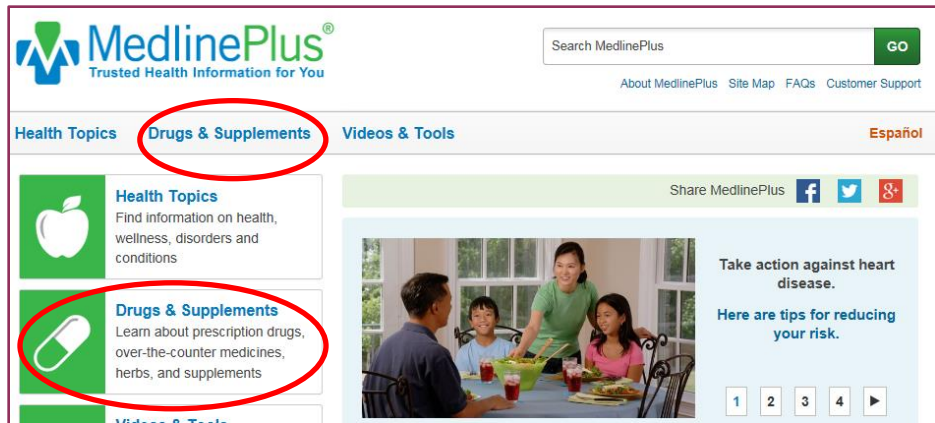


Figure 5. Drugs & Supplements on MedlinePlus Homepage

## Are there resources for patients who do not speak English?

Yes! The entire MedlinePlus website will be translated to Spanish if you select on “Español” in the top right corner of the homepage (See Figure 6). Additionally, at the bottom of the MedlinePlus homepage, you can select “Health Information in Multiple Languages” (See Figure 6) to find the language you are looking for and any resources available in that language. Please note, some resources are not available in every language.

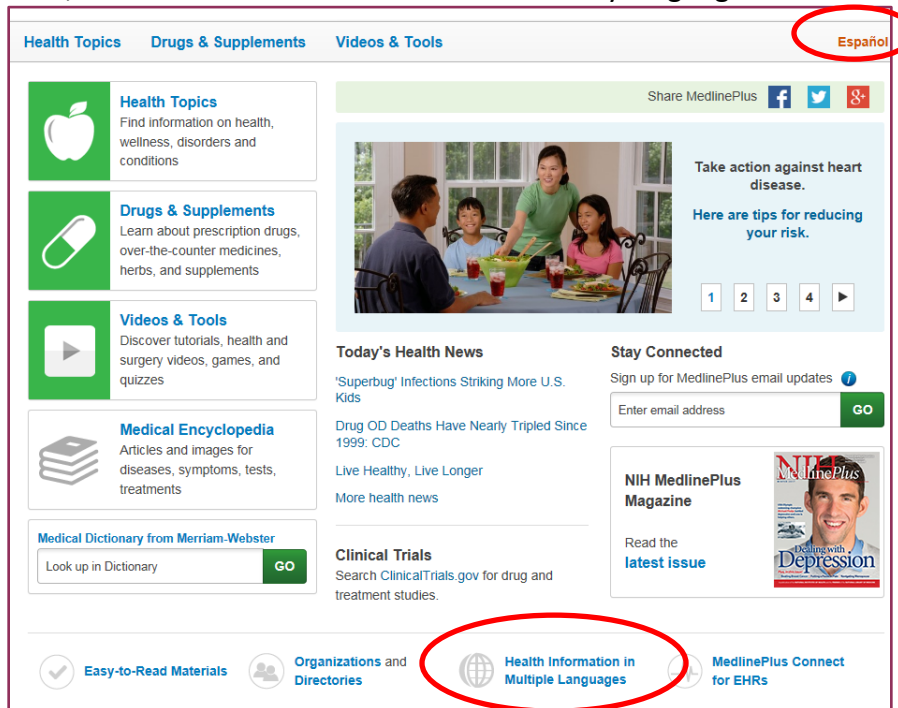


Figure 6. Language Options for MedlinePlus

## How can I stay updated?

There are many ways to learn about updates on the health topics included on MedlinePlus. The website features new articles daily in the “Today’s Health News” section on the homepage (See Figure 7).



Figure 7. Today's Health News on MedlinePlus Homepage

In addition to daily articles featured on the MedlinePlus homepage, you can read the latest issue, as well as previous issues, of the quarterly printed *NIH MedlinePlus* magazine (See Figure 8).



Figure 8. NIH MedlinePlus Magazine

## What if I want to learn about a particular topic?

If you are interested in a specific health topic, you can sign up to receive free email updates regarding your interest. On the homepage, type your email address under “Stay Connected” and then select the specific topics that interest you (See Figure 9). You will be automatically notified when new information on the topics of your interest becomes available.

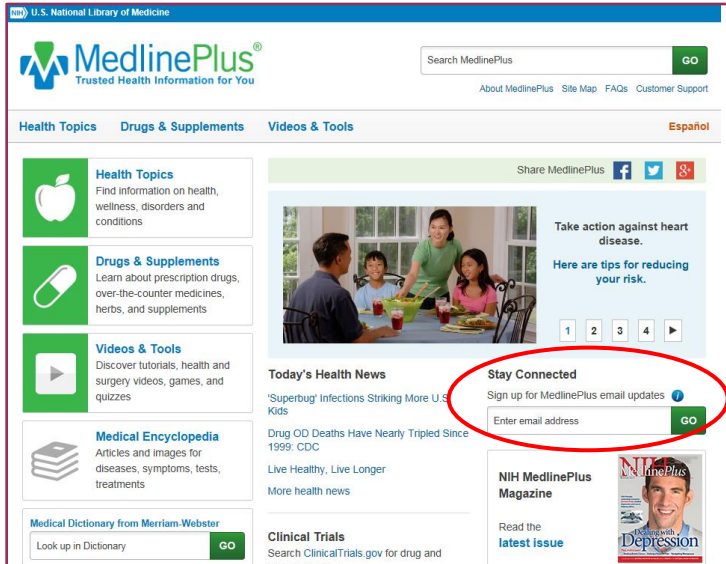


Figure 9. Stay Connected on MedlinePlus Homepage

## What if I have questions about the MedlinePlus website?

If you have a question about the MedlinePlus website, select “Customer Support” on the top right of the homepage for a list of commonly asked questions (See Figure 10).

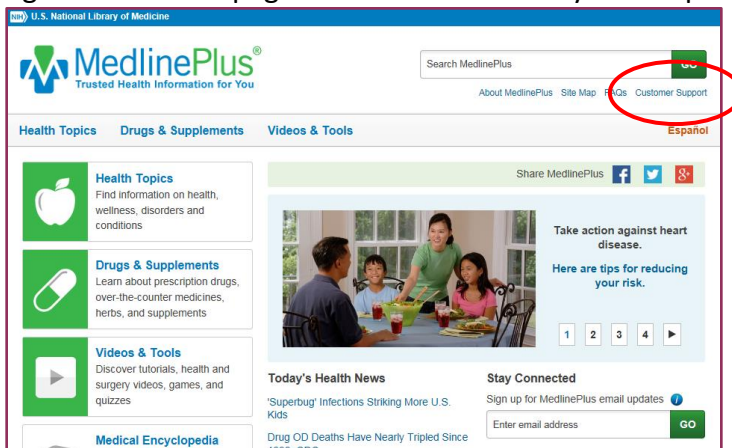


Figure 10. Customer Support for MedlinePlus



## I don't see my question listed under Customer Support, what should I do?

If you cannot find the question that you are looking for, select "Ask NLM!" to chat online with a MedlinePlus representative. You can also select "Contact NLM" to request an email reply (See Figure 11).

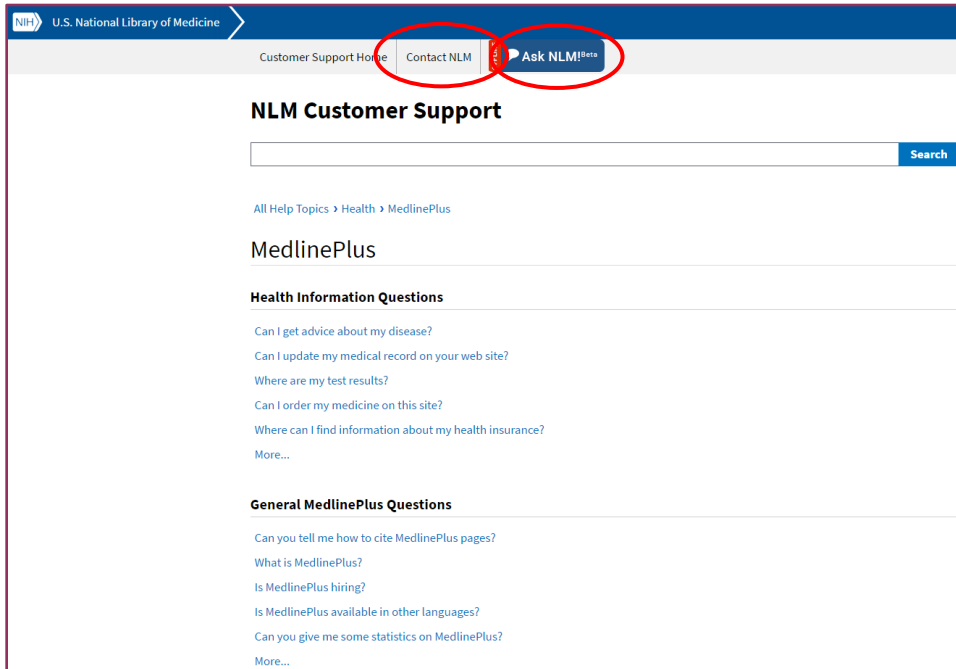


Figure 11. MedlinePlus Customer Support Homepage