

OOD144I

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“Development of the UMass HealthNet Initiative”

An Interactive Qualifying Project Report

submitted to the Faculty

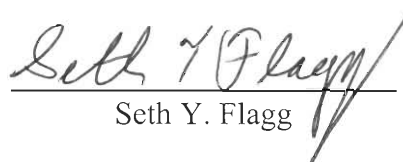
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by

  
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Abstract:

HealthNet is a community outreach program combined with a health resource for health professionals. HealthNet calls for the installation of computer hardware and software that allows Internet access at various sites throughout Central and Western Massachusetts. Health professionals will use the Internet connectivity to access other existing online health sources. Consumer health information will be distributed to the public via the HealthNet website. The majority of this project centers on the development of the HealthNet website.

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## Introduction:

In 1997, the University of Massachusetts Medical Center's Development office submitted a proposal to the William Randolph Hearst Foundation for the development and implementation of the UMass HealthNet Initiative. The UMass Health Initiative (HealthNet) became the joint conception of the UMass Lamar Soutter Library and the UMass Development Office. HealthNet was defined in the grant as a community outreach program combined with a health resource for health professionals. The initiative called for the installation of computer hardware and software that would allow Internet access at various sites throughout Central and Western Massachusetts. Health professionals would use the Internet connectivity to access other existing online health sources. Consumer health information would be distributed to the public via the HealthNet website.

The Hearst Foundation awarded a grant of \$180,123 to support the HealthNet Initiative. Once the grant was awarded, it was determined that HealthNet development would be under the administrative direction of the Lamar Soutter Library. The grant included two general objectives for the initiative but contained very few specifics. The first general objective for HealthNet was to provide Internet access to medical students, preceptors, primary care physicians, patients and affiliated hospitals, particularly in underserved areas. The second objective was to provide consumer health information over the Internet via the HealthNet website. The open nature of the grant has allowed the initiative to evolve with time.

Along with the initial objectives, the grant identified three target audiences for HealthNet and certain requirements for each audience. The first audience was preceptor sites. A preceptor site is a physician's office where medical students and residents are trained. The grant called for the identification of a minimum of 30 preceptor sites that would be provided with the hardware

necessary to access the Internet. The second audience was primary care physicians. The grant called for the identification of a minimum of 40 primary care physicians throughout Central and Western Massachusetts who would be provided with the hardware necessary to access the Internet. In twenty-five of these sites there would be a separate “patient focused” computer resource center in the physician’s office for use in patient education. Office staff will be trained to assist patients in finding for health information. The third audience was an affiliated hospital. The grant required that a minimum of two affiliated hospitals be identified with preference given to underserved areas. In these sites there will also be a separate “patient focused” computer resource center and supporting staff.

During the first year of HealthNet, the UMass healthcare system and the Memorial healthcare system underwent a merger. The merger greatly increased the service area of the healthcare system that supported the HealthNet Initiative. The merged system was comprised of two urban teaching hospitals, seventeen affiliated hospitals and seven teaching health centers located within Worcester and its surrounding communities. The system also included many affiliated health centers throughout Central and Western Massachusetts. However, due to complications resulting from the merger, little forward progress was made on the HealthNet initiative until January 1999.

In January 1999, the Director of Library Services for the UMass Medical School assumed the leadership of the initiative. An executive committee of health experts was formed to help define and guide the development of HealthNet. The executive committee was comprised of representatives from the library staff, various clinical departments, the affiliate relations office and the Area Health Education Committee. The executive committee has worked to clarify and expand the objectives found in the initial grant and to determine the best methods to reach these objectives.

The following objectives of HealthNet have been identified; to provide easy and widespread access to health-related information resources for medical students, primary care practitioners, and the general public of Western and Central Massachusetts; to provide access to health information as a teaching resource to the K-12 community; to provide comprehensive training programs to optimize the use of these resources; to use the Internet to extend health information resources to as many citizens as possible; to contribute to the health awareness and education of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

The executive committee also identified a core group of sites for a preliminary “roll-out” of HealthNet. In August of 1999, an Assistant Director for the HealthNet project was hired to assume the daily oversight of HealthNet development, including development of the website and installation of hardware at selected sites.

Members of the executive committee also identified individuals for a larger advisory board. The advisory board had several different responsibilities related to the HealthNet initiative. These responsibilities included identification of sites for implementation of HealthNet, identification of experts to write articles for the website, investigation of other sources of funding for HealthNet and review of information on the HealthNet website. To help accomplish these duties the full advisory board met bi-annually. Members of the Advisory Board also worked on an individual basis with the Executive Committee, the Director of HealthNet and the Assistant Director as needed.

The advisory board was a collaborative effort bringing together professionals from a wide range of health related fields. Members of the board included representatives from the following organizations: UMass Medical Center’s Department of Family & Community Medicine, the Center for International Health, UMass Medical Center’s Clinical Information Services, the Massachusetts

Prevention Center & Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Fitchburg Family Practice, the Lamar Soutter Library and the Tri-River Family Health Center.

Through the work of the HealthNet staff, the executive committee and the advisory board, HealthNet has evolved into an outreach initiative that establishes a vehicle for reliable consumer health information geared towards the residents of Massachusetts. The project also addresses the need for connectivity for UMass Medical School physicians and students at off-campus teaching locations.

One component is the installation of computers that will allow Internet access at sites throughout Central and Western Massachusetts, which in turns allows access to the HealthNet web page and other online health information. To accomplish the objectives of HealthNet the project has two components that are to be implemented in unison. The other component is the creation of a website that contains the health information for the project. The majority of this Interactive Qualifying Project centers on developing the website.

## **Methods Section:**

The majority of the Interactive Qualifying Project was focused on creating and improving the HealthNet website. As the HealthNet initiative evolved so did the scope of the IQP project. The work was broken into the several major areas. A description of each of areas has been provided below.

### Identification of Major Content Areas

The executive board defined several major content areas that were included in the initial website. These areas were “*Diseases & conditions*”, “*Good health*”, “*Learning health*” and “*Other health sources*”. These areas were further defined to facilitate the design of the website. The “*Diseases & conditions*” area should contain an alphabetical index that contains links to an individual page for each disease or condition. The “*Good health*” area focused on prevention, good health practices, nutrition and exercise. The “*Learning health*” area should contain a health dictionary, information on health policy issues and decision-making. The “*Other health sources*” area should contain information on evaluating online health information, discussion groups and other health sites.

### Identification of Disease and Condition Topics

Using information from the Center for Disease Control (<http://www.cdc.gov>) and other online health sites, a list of possible topics was compiled. (See Appendix A). The assistant director and several members of the executive board reviewed the topic list. From their work a final list of diseases and conditions was defined. (See Appendix B). Included in this list were cancer and AIDS which were already part of the Lamar Soutter Library website.

### Writing an Article for UMass HealthNet



Physicians from the clinical faculty of the health system were recruited by the members of the executive committee to compose articles for each of the selected disease or conditions. A series of guidelines for writing an UMass HealthNet Topic were developed (see Appendix C). The purpose of the guidelines was to help guide individual writers in writing a uniform and user-friendly article. To supplement each article a list of other credible online related health sources was created (see Appendix D). Links to this information were added to the end of each article. Once the article was evaluated by the UMass HealthNet Staff and an additional physician, the article was added to the website using a standard format. Each HealthNet article was divided into several sections including What is “health topic”, Sign & Symptoms, Causes of “health topic”, Treatment & Prevention, More Resources and Terms to Know.

#### Article Evaluation

Guidelines for evaluating an article submitted to UMass HealthNet were also developed (see Appendix F). Part of developing the evaluation process was benchmarking other online health sources (see Appendix E). Benchmark sites were examined based on six major areas (see Appendix F) and outstanding features were noted.

Next, the HealthNet website was evaluated. The website was evaluated on the basis of the main page and three completed articles from the “*Diseases & conditions*” area. The three articles were Otitis Media (Ear Infection), Bronchiolitis and Circumcision. Health care professional and college students evaluated the articles. Both groups were given the same instruction (see Appendix G) and filled out the same online survey (see Appendix H). Data was compiled and results can be found in the Results section.

## Results:

Two groups asked to examine the contents of the UMass HealthNet website (AppendixI). Then the two groups were surveyed and the results of the surveys are listed below.

### Survey Data from Healthcare Professionals:

Total # of Surveys: 4

|             |                            |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| Age:        | 37, 25, 45, 50             |
| Sex:        | 1 Male, 3 Female           |
| Education:  | 1 Master, 3 Professional   |
| Residence:  | 3 Eastern MA, 1 Western MA |
| Prim Lang:  | 4 English                  |
| Other Lang: | None                       |

| Question:  | Ref # | # Response |
|--|-------|------------|
| 1: I use the Internet to find Health Information:                            |       |            |
| First Time   | 1a    | 0          |
| Almost Never   | 1b    | 0          |
| Sometimes  | 1c    | 4          |
| All the Time   | 1d    | 0          |
| 2. I use the following for getting Health Information (check all that apply) |       |            |
| Pamphlets at doctor's office   | 2a    | 2          |
| News article in the paper  | 2b    | 2          |
| Television reports   | 2c    | 1          |
| What doctors & nurses tell me  | 2d    | 3          |
| What other people tell me  | 2e    | 1          |
| Health magazines   | 2f    | 3          |
| Professional journal   | 2g    | 4          |
| Other: Medical Text  | 2h    | 4          |
| 3. In general, I seek health information for (check all that apply)          |       |            |
| Myself   | 3a    | 3          |
| Other people (family/friends)  | 3b    | 3          |
| Part of my job   | 3c    | 4          |
| Other  | 3h    | 4          |

|  |    |   |
|--|----|---|
| 4. In general, I am interested in health information on (check those that apply)   |    |   |
| Diseases   | 4a | 4 |
| Staying healthy--wellness and prevention   | 4b | 4 |
| Support groups   | 4c | 2 |
| Contact other people or agencies   | 4d | 1 |
| 5. I would like to see more information on the following topics or areas:  |    |   |
| Blood Pressure, Hypercholesterolemia, Smoking  |    | 1 |
| Child development, pre-natal care and testing, immunizations   |    | 1 |
| 6. General Comments about the UMass HealthNet Initiative   |    |   |
| Well Organized, looking forward to seeing more articles  |    | 1 |
| great idea- layout good, organization easy to follow   |    | 1 |
| great idea—would get area doctors on-board the idea first and encourage access in their own offices before making available to patient populations since there is no place to enter comments about the layout below-- on the main page, I would suggest increasing the size of the main topic heading which are now in black as the topics are not well-separated from the subtopics and run together somewhat. I little more separation on the main page would make it easier to read and outline the specific areas a little better. |    | 1 |
| Great avenue for getting info out, keeping up with the times.<br>***Need section for comments below #18- I think the circumcision piece should be more balanced, including directly how to care for/clean an uncircumcised baby, and professional group recommendations  |    | 1 |
| 7. Finding the desired information was easy  |    |   |
| Strongly Agree   | 7a | 2 |
| Agree  | 7b | 2 |
| Disagree   | 7c | 0 |
| Strong Disagree  | 7d | 0 |
| No Response  | 7e | 0 |

|   |     |   |  |
|---|-----|---|--|
| 8. This web site was easy to navigate                       |     |   |  |
| Strongly Agree  | 8a  | 2 |  |
| Agree   | 8b  | 2 |  |
| Disagree  | 8c  | 0 |  |
| Strong Disagree   | 8   | 0 |  |
| No Response   | 8e  | 0 |  |
| 9. The information on this website was easy to understand   |     |   |  |
| Strongly Agree  | 9a  | 3 |  |
| Agree   | 9b  | 1 |  |
| Disagree  | 9c  | 0 |  |
| Strong Disagree   | 9d  | 0 |  |
| No Response   | 9e  | 0 |  |
| 10. This site contained health information that was useful: |     |   |  |
| Strongly Agree  | 10a | 3 |  |
| Agree   | 10b | 1 |  |
| Disagree  | 10c | 0 |  |
| Strong Disagree   | 10d | 0 |  |
| No Response   | 10e | 0 |  |
| 11. You would recommend UMass HealthNet to a friend         |     |   |  |
| Strongly Agree  | 11a | 3 |  |
| Agree   | 11b | 1 |  |
| Disagree  | 11c | 0 |  |
| Strong Disagree   | 11d | 0 |  |
| No Response   | 11e | 0 |  |
| 12. The web site was well organized:                        |     |   |  |
| Strongly Agree  | 12a | 2 |  |
| Agree   | 12b | 2 |  |
| Disagree  | 12c | 0 |  |
| Strong Disagree   | 12d | 0 |  |
| No Response   | 12e | 0 |  |
| 13. The web site had a professional look and feel:          |     |   |  |
| Strongly Agree  | 13a | 1 |  |
| Agree   | 13b | 3 |  |
| Disagree  | 13c | 0 |  |
| Strong Disagree   | 13d | 0 |  |
| No Response   | 13e | 0 |  |

|   |     |   |
|---|-----|---|
| 14. I understood the information presented on the web site: |     |   |
| Strongly Agree  | 14a | 3 |
| Agree   | 14b | 1 |
| Disagree  | 14c | 0 |
| Strong Disagree   | 14d | 0 |
| No Response   | 14e | 0 |
| 15. The material on the web site was easy to read           |     |   |
| Strongly Agree  | 15a | 3 |
| Agree   | 15b | 1 |
| Disagree  | 15c | 0 |
| Strong Disagree   | 15d | 0 |
| No Response   | 15e | 0 |
| 16. The web site reflected well on the reputation of UMMS   |     |   |
| Strongly Agree  | 16a | 3 |
| Agree   | 16b | 1 |
| Disagree  | 16c | 0 |
| Strong Disagree   | 16d | 0 |
| No Response   | 16e | 0 |
| 17. I recommend UMass HealthNet to a patient                |     |   |
| Strongly Agree  | 17a | 3 |
| Agree   | 17b | 1 |
| Disagree  | 17c | 0 |
| Strong Disagree   | 17d | 0 |
| No Response   | 17e | 0 |
| 18. Information on the web site is accurate:                |     |   |
| Strongly Agree  | 18a | 3 |
| Agree   | 18b | 1 |
| Disagree  | 18c | 0 |
| Strong Disagree   | 18d | 0 |
| No Response   | 18e | 0 |

Survey Data from College Students:

Total # of Surveys: 8

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Age:        | 18, 19, 20, 4 @ 21, 22   |
| Sex:        | 4 Male, 4 Female   |
| Education:  | 7 High School,<br>1 College Graduate                                     |
| Residence:  | 1 Western MA,<br>2 Central MA,<br>3 Eastern MA,<br>2 USA (other than MA) |
| Prim Lang:  | 8 English  |
| Other Lang: | None   |

| Question:  | Ref # | # Of Responses |
|--|-------|----------------|
| 1: I use the Internet to find Health Information:                                |       |                |
| First Time   | 1a    | 2              |
| Almost Never   | 1b    | 2              |
| Sometime   | 1c    | 3              |
| All the Time   | 1d    | 1              |
| 2. I use the following for getting Health Information (check all that apply)     |       |                |
| Pamphlets at doctor's office   | 2a    | 7              |
| News article in the paper  | 2b    | 4              |
| Television reports   | 2c    | 3              |
| What doctors & nurses tell me  | 2d    | 8              |
| What other people tell me  | 2e    | 4              |
| Health magazines   | 2f    | 0              |
| Professional journal   | 2g    | 2              |
| Other:   | 2h    | 7              |
| Other: School work (veterinary student)  | 2e    | 1              |
| 3. In general, I seek health information for (check all that apply)              |       |                |
| Myself   | 3a    | 8              |
| Other people (family/friends)  | 3b    | 5              |
| Part of my job   | 3c    | 0              |
| Other  | 3h    | 8              |
| 4. In general, I am interested in health information on (check those that apply) |       |                |
| Diseases   | 4a    | 5              |
| Staying healthy--wellness and prevention   | 4b    | 5              |
| Support groups   | 4c    | 0              |
| Contact other people or agencies   | 4d    | 0              |

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 5. I would like to see more information on the following topics or areas:  |  |   |
| No Response  |  | 3 |
| Possibly a diagram of the position of the Eustachian tube? It was mentioned that the position of the tube in infants can lead to infections a bit of description here could be very helpful.   |  | 1 |
| Specific common diseases and general staying healthy   |  | 1 |
| I have never seen alot of really accessible information on diabetes, a few of my family members have the disease and they are largely left to themselves. How many people have ever heard of much less read the Diabetes Complications and Control Trial (DCCT)? |  | 1 |
| Healthy Sleeping Habits  |  | 1 |
| General symptoms that usually cause minor concern but can have various causes and information on their possible meanings/severity  |  | 1 |
| I didn't look at the whole site, so I'm not sure what else is included. If there isn't already a site for breast cancer and Crohn's disease then I think one should be added   |  | 1 |

|  |    |   |
|--|----|---|
| 6. General Comments about the UMass HealthNet Initiative   |    |   |
| Very informative. Health information made easy to read and understand  |    | 1 |
| The three web pages I evaluated were not linked to the home page. I understand that they are still in development, but am wondering if that is the case...? Also, the "Diseases" and "Wellness" links at the top of the pages and the "Disclaimer" link at the bottom of the pages did not work. The Otitis media contained links to RSV sites, even though RSV was never mentioned here |    | 1 |
| Clear and easy to navigate. The information is put simply enough for anyone to understand without being condescending.   |    | 1 |
| If they get a wider range of topics it will be a hugely valuable source of health information. Its very easy to follow, I had no idea it was here before this survey   |    | 1 |
| A great way to get general information out to whoever may need it and when they may need it  |    | 1 |
| It was very easy to read, and the information was presented in a way that the general public could understand. However the only major problems I had was: if I hadn't known the web address, for example the one on otitis media, how would I have known where to find it.   |    | 1 |
| Well Organized, looking forward to seeing more articles  |    | 1 |
| Very well done. I definitely feel that it will be a useful tool.   |    | 1 |
| No Response  |    | 1 |
| 7. Finding the desired information was easy  |    |   |
| Strongly Agree   | 7a | 5 |
| Agree  | 7b | 3 |
| Disagree   | 7c | 0 |
| Strong Disagree  | 7d | 0 |
| No Response  | 7e | 0 |
| 8. This web site was easy to navigate  |    |   |
| Strongly Agree   | 8a | 2 |
| Agree  | 8b | 5 |
| Disagree   | 8c | 1 |
| Strong Disagree  | 8  | 0 |
| No Response  | 8e | 0 |



|   |     |   |
|---|-----|---|
| 9. The information on this website was easy to understand   |     |   |
| Strongly Agree  | 9a  | 7 |
| Agree   | 9b  | 1 |
| Disagree  | 9c  | 0 |
| Strong Disagree   | 9d  | 0 |
| No Response   | 9e  | 0 |
| 10. This site contained health information that was useful: |     |   |
| Strongly Agree  | 10a | 2 |
| Agree   | 10b | 6 |
| Disagree  | 10c | 0 |
| Strong Disagree   | 10d | 0 |
| No Response   | 10e | 0 |
| 11. You would recommend UMass HealthNet to a friend         |     |   |
| Strongly Agree  | 11a | 4 |
| Agree   | 11b | 4 |
| Disagree  | 11c | 0 |
| Strong Disagree   | 11d | 0 |
| No Response   | 11e | 0 |
| 12. The web site was well organized:                        |     |   |
| Strongly Agree  | 12a | 4 |
| Agree   | 12b | 4 |
| Disagree  | 12c | 0 |
| Strong Disagree   | 12d | 0 |
| No Response   | 12e | 0 |
| 13. The web site had a professional look and feel:          |     |   |
| Strongly Agree  | 13a | 4 |
| Agree   | 13b | 4 |
| Disagree  | 13c | 0 |
| Strong Disagree   | 13d | 0 |
| No Response   | 13e | 0 |
| 14. I understood the information presented on the web site: |     |   |
| Strongly Agree  | 14a | 5 |
| Agree   | 14b | 3 |
| Disagree  | 14c | 0 |
| Strong Disagree   | 14d | 0 |
| No Response   | 14e | 0 |

|  |     |   |
|--|-----|---|
| 15. The material on the web site was easy to read: |     |   |
| Strongly Agree                                     | 15a | 7 |
| Agree  | 15b | 1 |
| Disagree   | 15c | 0 |
| Strong Disagree                                    | 15d | 0 |
| No Response  | 15e | 0 |

## **Discussion:**

The introduction of the Internet has heralded radical changes in the way that information is exchanged between people and organizations throughout society. The exchange of information via the Internet has affected many facets of society including healthcare. The Internet can be used to distribute health information to the general public and as an information resource to health professionals. The HealthNet project uses the Internet to increase health awareness in the people of Central and Western Massachusetts and provides Internet access to health professionals.

As outlined in the initial grant from the Hearst Foundation, HealthNet had two primary objectives. The objective of providing Internet access to medical students, preceptors, primary care physicians, patients and affiliated hospitals, particularly in undeserved areas, has been partially met. To date, the HealthNet staff has installed computers at two sites. Both are family health centers, one in Uxbridge and the other in Fitchburg. The health centers that have been targeted by HealthNet do not currently have access to the Internet. Once medical professionals at these sites have the computers and Internet connectivity they can use the resources from the existing Lamar Soutter Library website. The Lamar Soutter website already contains a comprehensive listing of health information designed for health professionals and medical students. It is also recommended that the HealthNet staff create a page on the HealthNet website that provides information about searching the Internet for professional health information or a link to similar information elsewhere on the Lamar Soutter Library website.

The HealthNet staff has also been working with health professionals at the two health centers to develop a training program on the use of HealthNet. A considerable amount of work remains to be done because these two sites are only a small fraction of the 70 sites called for in the

grant. A second round of planned installations will be at sites affiliated with the Psychiatry Department.

The second objective was to provide consumer health information over the Internet via the HealthNet website. This objective has been partially met by the website's current form. A significant amount of work has been done on information targeted towards health consumers. To evaluate the work done on this subject, a survey was conducted on two groups. One group was comprised of healthcare professionals who work at various collegiate health centers in Worcester. The other group was comprised of WPI college students. The group of healthcare professionals was surveyed because healthcare professionals will be referring patients to the HealthNet website. The data collected from the two survey groups provides information about the health consumer section of the website. Based on the survey data, the website is well organized and information is easy to find. The content of each health topic is easy to understand, however, minor reformatting for added clarity and possibly the addition of diagrams to some articles would be helpful. Overall, the three articles that were reviewed were given good evaluations.

Two major concerns with the website arose when the survey data was analyzed. The first was non-functional links among the various pages of the HealthNet website. At the present time, this is intentional because the health information on the site is not ready for distribution to the public. As areas are completed, they will be connected to the HealthNet home page. The second concern was the need for additional content and other health topics. The HealthNet staff has already identified a list of additional health topics. These health topics are currently under development.

In addition to working to address concerns raised by the current survey data, it is important that additional evaluation of the website be performed as more material is added. In particular,

collecting data from eighth graders would be helpful because articles on HealthNet were targeted towards an eighth grade reading level. To date, the majority of the work on the HealthNet website has focused on creating and gathering information for health consumers.

HealthNet is similar to many other online health sites. Many other health sites provide similar content for health consumers. In particular the division on information into individual health topics with definition of medical terms and links to other online source is common to many sites including IntelliHealth ([www.intelihealth.com](http://www.intelihealth.com)) and KidsHealth ([www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org)). However, HealthNet has a unique focus and method of distributing information. HealthNet focuses on the health concerns of Central and Western Massachusetts. In addition each article is attributed to its author, whose professional area of expertise and place of practice is displayed. This may add credibility for who recognize local health care institutions as reputable place to gather information.

Presently, there are no other websites dedicated solely to provide information to the Central and Western Massachusetts area. The tight focus of HealthNet will allow information about health issues facing Central and Western Massachusetts to be fully addressed on the website. For example, it will be possible to post area clinics administering flu vaccines as well as guidelines for vaccination decisions, flu symptom recognition and other advice during flu season. Thus far no work has been done on this section of the website. Once the content of the consumer health area is finished, the HealthNet staff can focus on this area of the website. This will result in increased health awareness of both general and current health topics of concerns to patients in Central and Western Massachusetts.

In order for HealthNet to be truly effective, it must be marketed to a wide range of people in Central and Western Massachusetts. A plan to market the completed HealthNet website has been created. A consultant will be employed to ensure HealthNet is included in databases for Internet

search engines and other online health indexes. Awareness in the local medical community will be raised through mass mailings and memos to healthcare professionals and medical students in Central and Western Massachusetts. Awareness in the general public will be raised by press releases and other advertisements in various publications. HealthNet staff members also plan to attend health fairs and other health related conventions throughout the state. The installation and use of HealthNet hardware in physician offices and hospitals will also serve to market HealthNet.

The method of information distribution is also very unique in comparison to other online health sources. Other online health sources only rely on the Internet. HealthNet combines online health information with access to real world healthcare professionals at the same time. This will be accomplished by installing computers in hospitals and health centers. By placing HealthNet computers in doctor's offices, HealthNet gives patients an opportunity to look up information online and then talk to a healthcare professional immediately about the information. This combination will result in patients who have their question answered directly and so may better understand the health issues they are facing. HealthNet also will allow healthcare professionals to refer a patient to a particular health topic on the HealthNet web page for additional information. Ideally, the combination of online information and personal contact with health professionals will give patients a better understanding of various health issues and allow healthcare professionals to be more time efficient when interacting with patients.

Upon completion, HealthNet will establish a vehicle for reliable consumer health information geared towards Massachusetts's residents. HealthNet will also address the need for Internet connectivity for UMMS faculty and students at off-campus teaching locations in order to expand access to health information to physicians, health professionals, and students. However, HealthNet falls short of both objectives in its present state. To meet the consumer health objective,

more general health information needs to be developed. In addition to general health information, health information specifically targeted towards Central and Western Massachusetts must be developed. However, the limited consumer health information currently on the HealthNet site is well organized and easy to understand. The objective of providing Internet connectivity to health professionals has been initiated but over sixty five sites still need to be identified and under go computer installation.

Despite the project present shortcomings, the HealthNet staff has made considerable advancements towards the completion of the project. The work that has been done to date has laid a strong foundation for the future work. Another important consideration when looking at the progress of the project is that a full time staff member has only worked on the project for seven months and two years of funding still remain in the grant. Once completed the combined efforts of HealthNet will greatly benefit the communities of Central and Western Massachusetts.

Appendix A: List of Possible Health Topics



List of possible topics for HealthNet

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

|                                    |
|------------------------------------|
| Allergies                          |
| Alzheimer's Disease                |
| Arthritis                          |
| Asthma                             |
| Cancer                             |
| Cardiovascular Disease             |
| Cerebral palsy                     |
| Chicken Pox (peds)                 |
| Child Health                       |
| Diabetes                           |
| Disabilities                       |
| Flu (Influenza)                    |
| Head Lice (peds)                   |
| Hepatitis A, B, C                  |
| Lead Poisoning                     |
| Lyme Disease                       |
| Measles                            |
| Measles                            |
| Meningitis                         |
| Men's Health                       |
| Mumps                              |
| Mumps                              |
| Nutrition                          |
| Otitis media (peds)                |
| Polio                              |
| Rabies                             |
| Rubella (German Measles)           |
| Salmonella                         |
| Shigella                           |
| STDs                               |
| Bacterial Vaginosis                |
| Cancer of the Cervix               |
| Chlamydia                          |
| Genital Warts                      |
| Gonorhea                           |
| Herpes                             |
| HIV/AIDS                           |
| Pelvic Inflammatory Diseases "PID" |
| Syphilis                           |
| Yeast Infection                    |
| Suicide                            |
| Tuberculosis                       |
| Women's Health                     |
| Mammograms                         |
| Metapause                          |
| Pap smears                         |
| Pelvic Exams                       |
| Self Breast Exams                  |

Appendix B: Final List of Health Topics

# Topics for HN

| Index Group | Topic                    | Index Group 2  | In Production                       | Priority Level | Already Part of UMMS/HC             |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Adult       | Disabilities             |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|             | Health Access Education  |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 1              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Cancer      | Allergies                | Child          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|             | Arthritis                | Elderly        | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|             | Cardiovascular Disease   | Elderly        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 1              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Child       | Cancer of the Cervix     | Women's Health | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|             | Asthma                   | Chronic        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 1              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|             | Diabetes                 | Chronic        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 1              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|             | Head Lice                |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|             | Lead Poisoning           | Prevention     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 1              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|             | Measles                  |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|             | Meningitis               |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|             | Mumps                    |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|             | Otitis media             |                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|             | Rabies                   |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|             | Rubella (German Measles) |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

| Index Group  | Topic                     | Index Group 2 | In Production                       | Priority Level | Already Part of UMMS/HC  |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Child Health |                           |               |                                     |                |                          |
|              | Bronchiolitis             | Seasonal      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|              | Chicken Pox               |               | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|              | Child Development         |               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dis/Con      |                           |               |                                     |                |                          |
|              | Cerebral palsy            |               | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|              | Flu (Influenza)           | Seasonal      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|              | Hepatitis A, B, C         | STD           | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|              | Lyme Disease              | Seasonal      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|              | Polio                     |               | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|              | Transplantation/Organ Don |               | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DisCon       |                           |               |                                     |                |                          |
|              | Tuberculosis              |               | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Elderly      |                           |               |                                     |                |                          |
|              | Alzheimer's Disease       |               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 1              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Eye Diseases |                           |               |                                     |                |                          |
|              | Glaucoma                  | Elderly?      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Intestinal   |                           |               |                                     |                |                          |
|              | Samonella Poisoning       | Prevention    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|              | Shigella/Dysentery        |               | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Men's Health |                           |               |                                     |                |                          |
|              | Prostate Cancer           |               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1              | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| Index Group    | Topic                      | Index Group 2 | In Production            | Priority Level | Already Part of UMMS/HC             |
|----------------|----------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mental Health  |                            |               |                          |                |                                     |
|                | Depression                 |               | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|                | Suicide(MH)                |               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| STD            |                            |               |                          |                |                                     |
|                | Chlamydia                  |               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|                | Genital Warts              |               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|                | Gonorhea                   |               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|                | Herpes                     |               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|                | HIV/AIDS                   |               | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|                | Pelvic Inflammatory Diseas |               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|                | Syphilis                   |               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Wellness       |                            |               |                          |                |                                     |
|                | Nutrition                  |               | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Women's Health |                            |               |                          |                |                                     |
|                | Bacterial Vaginosis        |               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|                | Breast Cancer              | Cancer        | <input type="checkbox"/> |                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                | Mammograms                 |               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|                | Menopause                  |               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|                | Pap Smears                 |               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|                | Pelvic Exams               |               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|                | Self Breast Exams          |               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|                | Yeast Infection            |               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

Appendix C: Guidelines for writing a submission to HealthNet

## **Guidelines for writing a submission to HealthNet**

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a framework for writing a topic for HealthNet. The guidelines have been established to help create a unified and user-friendly web site. The guidelines are not meant to limit or hinder the writer of a topic. Depending on subject matter all the sections outlined below may not be appropriate or additional section may be needed to provide a complete write-up of the topic.

### **Things to keep in mind while writing:**

#### **Important that topic is readable by lay person**

Target Audience has 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade reading level  
When using advanced vocabulary include a simple definition

### **Sections to be included:**

#### **Title**

Common name of condition/ disease  
Technical name of condition/ disease

#### **Credentials of Writer**

Name  
Title  
Department  
Location  
Other qualifications

#### **What is the condition/disease**

Basic information about condition  
List of fact about condition  
Groundwork for following sections

#### **Case Study**

Sample of common occurrence of condition

#### **Signs and Symptoms**

A list of signs and symptoms

#### **When should I see a doctor?**

Time frame of visit (urgency)

#### **Causes/ Risk Factors**

Common causes  
Risk factor  
Statistics

#### **Treatment**

Common physician actions  
Home actions

#### **Follow-up**

What a patient should do after treatment is finished.

## **Prevention**

Recommended actions that reduce risk of occurrence or reoccurrence

## **List of other sources for more information**

Books  
Other web sites  
Support Groups  
Health Centers

Created 9/17/99 SYF ; modified 9/21/99 SYF



Appendix D: Additional Web Resources for Health Topics

Additional Web Resources for Health Topics:

List of completed topics:

|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Allergies                      | Breast Cancer     |
| Arthritis                      | Mammograms        |
| Cardiovascular disease         | Self Breast Exams |
| Cancer                         | Menopause         |
| Cancer of the cervix           | Pap Smear         |
| Prostate cancer                | Pelvic Exams      |
| Cerebral palsy                 | Yeast Infection   |
| Flu(influenza)                 |                   |
| Hepatitis ABC                  |                   |
| Lyme Disease                   |                   |
| Polio                          |                   |
| Transplantation/Organ Donation |                   |
| Meningitis                     |                   |
| Measles (Rubeola)              |                   |
| German Measles (Rubella)       |                   |
| Rabies                         |                   |
| Lead Poisoning                 |                   |
| Circumcision                   |                   |
| Cry/ Colic                     |                   |
| Mumps                          |                   |
| Chicken Pox                    |                   |
| Vaccine Information            |                   |
| Adolescence Development        |                   |
| Head Lice                      |                   |
| Eczema                         |                   |
| Otitis Media                   |                   |
| Bronchiolitis                  |                   |
| Tuberculosis                   |                   |
| Alzheimer's Disease            |                   |
| Glaucoma                       |                   |
| Shigella/Dysentery             |                   |
| depression                     |                   |
| suicide                        |                   |
| STDs:                          |                   |
| Chlamydia                      |                   |
| Genital Warts                  |                   |
| Gonorrhea                      |                   |
| Herpes                         |                   |
| HIV/AIDS                       |                   |
| Pelvic Inflammatory Disease    |                   |
| Syphilis                       |                   |
| Bacterial Vaginosis            |                   |

## Allergies

### Adam.com

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/002097.htm>

### KidsHealth.org:

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

For Parents:

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/healthy/allergy.html>

For Kids:

[http://kidshealth.org/kid/health\\_problems/allergies.html](http://kidshealth.org/kid/health_problems/allergies.html)

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_3961610](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_3961610)

### OnHealth

Is a consumer health information company based in Seattle. OnHealth is an independent company not tied to a particular healthcare system or insurance company. They have expert information from a broad range of sources. Among them are the publishers of New England Journal of Medicine and physicians who teach at Harvard, Columbia and Stanford.

<http://ww1.onhealth.com/ch1/resource/conditions/item,195.asp>

### Online Allergy Center:

In 1995, the Online Allergy Center was established to provide helpful allergy tips and information to allergy sufferers worldwide. This site contains information on all types of allergies.

<http://www.onlineallergycenter.com/>

## **Arthritis**

### **Adam.com**

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/001243.htm>

### **KidsHealth.org:**

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis:

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/medical/arthritis/jra.html>

### **WebMD**

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters.

Rheumatoid Arthritis

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_40005](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_40005)

### **HealingWell.com**

Healing Well an online health resource guide to medical news, articles and information, newsgroups and other health information. Established in 1998 the site has links to a great deal of information on Arthritis

<http://www.healingwell.com/arthritis/>

## **Cardiovascular Disease**

### Adam.com

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustrations found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/000147.htm>

### KidsHealth.org:

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

About the heart for Kids:

<http://kidshealth.org/kid/normal/heart.html>

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes from a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_40003](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_40003)

### American Heart Association

The American Heart Association is dedicated to providing you with education and information on fighting heart disease and stroke.

<http://www.americanheart.org/>

### Center for Disease Control and Prevention

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), located in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, is an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services. The CDC's mission is to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability.

<http://www.cdc.gov/health/cardiov.htm>

## **Cancer**

### Adam.com

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustrations found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/001289.htm>

### KidsHealth.org:

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

For Kids:

[http://kidshealth.org/kid/health\\_problems/cancer.html](http://kidshealth.org/kid/health_problems/cancer.html)

For Parents:

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/healthy/cancer.html>

### National Cancer Institute

National Cancer Institute is a government agency, which provide information on cancer. The National Cancer Institute has a very helpful page designed for cancer patients, the public and the news media.

<http://rex.nci.nih.gov/>

### The National Children's Cancer Society

The National Children's Cancer Society is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide direct financial support to children with cancer and their families, for expenses related to cancer treatment. Their Webster has a great deal of information about cancer and children.

<http://www.children-cancer.com/>

### Jefferson Health System:

The Jefferson Health System serves the Philadelphia region and consists of several hospitals and many health centers. The site provide information form doctors working in the Jefferson Health System

[http://www.jeffersonhealth.org/diseases/gyn\\_onc/general.htm](http://www.jeffersonhealth.org/diseases/gyn_onc/general.htm)

## **Cancer of the Cervix**

### Adam.com

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustrations found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/000893.htm>

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_58007](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_58007)

### CancerBacup:

CancerBACUP aims to help people live with cancer by providing information and emotional support for patients, their families and health professionals. It is recognized as the foremost provider of cancer information in the United Kingdom.

<http://www.cancerbacup.org.uk/info/cervix.htm>

### Jefferson Health System:

The Jefferson Health System serves the Philadelphia region and consists of several hospitals and many health centers. The site provide information form doctors working in the Jefferson Health System

[http://www.jeffersonhealth.org/diseases/gyn\\_onc/general.htm](http://www.jeffersonhealth.org/diseases/gyn_onc/general.htm)



## **Prostrate Cancer**

### Adam.com

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

[http://www.adam.com/mens\\_health/prostate\\_health.htm](http://www.adam.com/mens_health/prostate_health.htm)

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_1460970](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_1460970)

### American Cancer Society's Prostate Cancer Resource Center

American Cancer Society's Prostate Cancer Resource Center provides answers to questions about the nature of cancer, its causes and risk factors.

[http://www3.cancer.org/cancerinfo/res\\_home.asp?st=wi&ct=36](http://www3.cancer.org/cancerinfo/res_home.asp?st=wi&ct=36)

### Prostrate Pointers

Prostrate Pointers is a resource site that contains links to many different pages with information about prostate cancer. Created in memory of a man who did from prostrate cancer.

<http://www.prostatepointers.org/prostate/>

## **Cerebral Palsy**

### Adam.com

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/000716.htm>

### KidsHealth.org:

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

[http://kidshealth.org/parent/clinical/cerebral\\_palsy.2.html](http://kidshealth.org/parent/clinical/cerebral_palsy.2.html)

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_1456990](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_1456990)

### United Cerebral Palsy

United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) is a nation organization committed to change and progress for persons with disabilities. United Cerebral Palsy's mission is to advance the independence, productivity and full citizenship of people with cerebral palsy and other disabilities, through our commitment to the principles of independence, inclusion and self-determination.

<http://www.ucpa.org/html/>

## **Flu (Influenza)**

### Adam.com

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/000080.htm>

### KidsHealth.org:

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

For Parents:

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/common/flu.html>

For Kids:

<http://kidshealth.org/kid/normal/flu.html>

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_1451026](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_1451026)

### National Foundation for Infectious Diseases

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases is a non-profit, independent, tax-exempt philanthropic organization founded in 1973. Its purpose is to support research of infectious diseases; to encourage and sponsor public and professional education programs; to aid in the prevention of infectious diseases.

<http://www.nfid.org/library/influenza/>

## **Hepatitis**

### Adam.com

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustrations found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/001154.htm>

### KidsHealth.org:

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

For Parents

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/common/hepatitis.html>

For Teens

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/001154.htm>

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes from a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_40044](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_40044)

### Hepatitis Central

Hepatitis Central provides information and support for people with hepatitis. The site includes information, recent news and bulletin boards.

<http://hepatitis-central.com/>

### HepNet

HepNet is a comprehensive site on the various hepatitis classifications, plus news, research, and drug therapies

<http://www.hepnet.com/>

## Lyme Disease

### Adam.com

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/001319.htm>

### KidsHealth.org:

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

For Parents:

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/healthy/lyme.html>

For Kids:

[http://kidshealth.org/kid/health\\_problems/lyme\\_disease.html](http://kidshealth.org/kid/health_problems/lyme_disease.html)

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_5461696](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_5461696)

### Lyme Disease Network

Welcome to the Lyme Disease Network, a non-profit foundation dedicated to public education of the prevention and treatment of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses. The Lyme Disease Network has been on the Internet since 1994.

<http://www.lymenet.org/>

### The American Lyme Disease Foundation

The American Lyme Disease Foundation supports research and plays a key role in providing reliable and scientifically accurate information to the public and health care provider. The information on Lyme disease presented in this web site has been reviewed and approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<http://www.aldf.com/>

## **Polio**

### Adam.com

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/001402.htm>

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_1459015](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_1459015)

### Polio Information Center

The Polio Information Center Online (PICO) provides information about poliovirus. The site has recent news and a history of polio

<http://cumicro2.cpmc.columbia.edu/PICO/PICO.html>

### Public Broadcasting Service Online

The Public Broadcasting Service online provide information about polio. This site included information about the history of polio and immunizations.

<http://www.pbs.org/storyofpolio/polio/index.html>

## **Organ Transplantation**

### Organ Donation

Created by Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) this site provides information and resources on organ donation and transplantation issues.

<http://www.organdonor.gov/>

### Life Goes On - Organ and Tissue Donation

At this site you can register to become an organ donor, read facts about tissue donation, take a transplant quiz, and find out about the Life Goes On program.

<http://www.sos.state.il.us/depts/drivers/programs/donor/donor.html>

### The New England Organ Bank

The New England Organ Bank recovers organs and tissues for those waiting lifesaving and life-enhancing transplantation. A variety of information about organ and tissue transplantation is available on this site

<http://www.neob.org/>

## **Meningitis**

### **Adam.com**

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site  
<http://www2.adam.com/ency/article/000680.htm>

### **KidsHealth.org:**

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

<http://KidsHealth.org/parent/common/meningitis.html>

### **Meningitis Foundation of America**

The Meningitis Foundation of America helps support sufferers of Spinal Meningitis and their families. They provide information to educate the public and medical professionals about Meningitis so that its early diagnosis and treatment will save lives. The foundation also helps support the development of vaccines and other means of treating and/or preventing meningitis

<http://www.musa.org/welcome.htm>



## **Measles (Rubeola)**

### Adam.com

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/001569.htm>

### KidsHealth.org:

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

<http://KidsHealth.org/parent/common/measles.html>

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_58383](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_58383)

### OnHealth

Is a consumer health information company based in Seattle. OnHealth is an independent company not tied to a particular healthcare system or insurance company. They have expert information from a broad range of sources. Among them are the publishers of New England Journal of Medicine and physicians who teach at Harvard, Columbia and Stanford.

<http://ww1.onhealth.com/ch1/resource/conditions/item,409.asp>

### **German Measles (Rubella)**

#### Adam.com

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site  
<http://www2.adam.com/ency/article/001574.htm>

#### KidsHealth.org:

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.  
[http://KidsHealth.org/parent/common/german\\_measles.html](http://KidsHealth.org/parent/common/german_measles.html)

#### The ABCs of Safe and Healthy Child Care:

This provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). CDC has written this handbook to help you, the childcare provider, reduce sickness, injury, and other health problems in your childcare facility.  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/abc/facts35.htm>

#### OnHealth

Is a consumer health information company based in Seattle. OnHealth is an independent company not tied to a particular healthcare system or insurance company. They have expert information from a broad range of sources. Among them are the publishers of New England Journal of Medicine and physicians who teach at Harvard, Columbia and Stanford.  
<http://onhealth.com/ch1/resource/conditions/illus/item,558.asp>

## **Rabies**

### Adam.com

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site

<http://www2.adam.com/ency/article/001334.htm>

### KidsHealth.org:

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

For Parents:

<http://KidsHealth.org/parent/common/rabies.html>

For Kids:

[http://KidsHealth.org/kid/health\\_problems/rabies.html](http://KidsHealth.org/kid/health_problems/rabies.html)

### Center for Disease Control and Prevention

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), located in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, is an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services. The CDC's mission is to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability.

General Information:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies/>

Rabies Information for Travelers

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/rabies.htm>

### American Veterinary Medical Association

Established in 1863, AVMA works to advance the science and art of veterinary medicine, including its relationship to public health and agriculture. As the largest veterinary organization in the world, AVMA is recognized as the voice of the profession and the authority on animal welfare.

Information about rabies in animals and humans

<http://www.avma.org/care4pets/anrabie.htm>

## **Lead Poisoning:**

### Adam.com

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustrations found at this site  
<http://www2.adam.com/ency/article/002473.htm>

### Center for Disease Control and Prevention

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), located in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, is an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services. The CDC's mission is to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability.

Fact Sheet on Lead Poisoning:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/programs/lead/faq/cdc97a.htm>

About the CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/programs/lead/about/about.htm>

### The American Academy of Pediatrics:

<http://www.aap.org/family/lead.htm>

### The Lead Poisoning Prevention Outreach Program

The Lead Poisoning Prevention Outreach Program is funded through a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Environmental Health Center (EHC). This year, our program targets minority and underserved populations, including the African American, Asian American and Pacific Islander, Latino, and Native American communities. EHC plans to hold outreach meetings and training sessions that will give community-based organizations the tools and skills to enable them to plan and execute successful lead poisoning prevention programs in their communities.

<http://www.nsc.org/ehc/lead.htm>

### Environmental Protection Agencies:

The Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA) is a government agencies created in 1970. The mission of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment--air, water, and land--upon which life depends.  
<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/lead/index.html>

## **Circumcision**

### Adam.com

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of Topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site

<http://www2.adam.com/ency/article/002998.htm>

### Parentsplace.com:

A place where parents of all types connect, communicate and celebrate the adventures of childrearing. A wide range of parenting topics are covered on this site. A board of experts provides information on the site.

Several articles can be reached from this site (you have to scroll down though)

<http://www.parentsplace.com/stages/babies/physical/>

### ParentTime

A web resource for parents of children age 0-6 years. The site is the work of a team of journalists in cooperation with several experts. There is a great deal of general information on the site along with current news about parenting.

<http://protected.pathfinder.com/ParentTime/sears/leafs/circum.html>

### Crying/ Colic

#### Adam.com:

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site

<http://www2.adam.com/ency/article/002397.htm>

### ParentTime

A web resource for parents of children age 0-6 years. The site is the work of a team of journalists in cooperation with several experts. There is a great deal of general information on the site along with current news about parenting.

<http://protected.pathfinder.com/ParentTime/baby/colic/>

### OnHealth

Is a consumer health information company based in Seattle. OnHealth is an independent company not tied to a particular healthcare system or insurance company. They have expert information from a broad range of sources. Among them are the publishers of New England Journal of Medicine and physicians who teach at Harvard, Columbia and Stanford.

<http://onhealth.com/ch1/columnist/item,36481.asp>

## **Mumps:**

### Adam.Com

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site

<http://www2.adam.com/ency/article/001557.htm>

### KidsHealth.org:

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/common/mumps.html>

### Center for Disease Control and Prevention

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), located in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, is an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services. The CDC's mission is to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vaccine/nip-mmr.htm>

### The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Opened in 1855 as the nation's first children's hospital. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia has provided world-renowned medical and surgical care to children from around the globe.

[http://www.chop.edu/patient/child\\_emerg/mumps.html](http://www.chop.edu/patient/child_emerg/mumps.html)



## **Chicken Pox / Vaccines**

### KidsHealth.org:

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

[http://kidshealth.org/parent/common/chicken\\_pox.html](http://kidshealth.org/parent/common/chicken_pox.html)

### Adam.Com

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www2.adam.com/ency/article/001592.htm>

## **Vaccine Information:**

### ParentPlace.com

A place where parents of all types connect, communicate and celebrate the adventures of childrearing. A wide range of parenting topics are covered on this site. A board expert provides information on the site. For information on children vaccinations:

<http://www.parentsplace.com/expert/pediatrician/vaccines/>

### ParentTime

A great deal of information about vaccines for children. The site is the work of a team of journalists in cooperation with several experts. There is a great deal of general information on the site along with current news about parenting

<http://www.pathfinder.com/ParentTime/sears/leafs/immuniz.html>

### Center for Disease Control and Prevention

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), located in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, is an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services. The CDC's mission is to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability.

Information about Measles, Mumps, rubella vaccinations

<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vaccine/mmrtext.htm>

## **Infant Development:**

### Adam.com

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site

General

<http://www2.adam.com/ency/article/002004.htm>

Milestone 2 month

<http://www2.adam.com/ency/article/002006.htm>

Milestones 5 years

<http://www2.adam.com/ency/article/002016.htm>

Site contains milestone from first 5 years of life do we want to include all of them?

### National Network for Child Care:

NNCC is comprised of professionals from across the country that have a vision of safe, caring, accessible childcare for all children. NNCC is committed to "Building Better Child Care for America's Children" through network communication, program development and sharing of resources.

<http://www.nncc.org/Child.Dev/inf.phys.dev.html>

### Parent's Place

A place where parents of all types connect, communicate and celebrate the adventures of raising children. A wide range of parenting topics are covered on this site. A board expert provides information on the site.

<http://www.parentsplace.com/stages/babies/physical/gen/0,3476,10150,00.html>

### Parenttime.com

A web resource for parents of children age 0-6 years. The site is the work of a team of journalists in cooperation with several experts. There is a great deal of general information on the site along with current news about parenting.

Information about development for the first nine months

<http://protected.pathfinder.com/ParentTime/sears/leafs/hownint.html>

Information on infant in general:

<http://protected.pathfinder.com/ParentTime/baby/babybody/>



**Adolescence Development:**

I just included this because I found it and figure we would get to it sooner or later

Adam.com

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site

General

<http://www2.adam.com/ency/article/001950.htm>

Development

<http://www2.adam.com/ency/article/002003.htm>

## Lice

### Adam.com

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/000840.htm>

### KidsHealth.org

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/common/lice.html>

### Harvard School of Public Health

The Harvard School of Public Health was created in 1922. Since then they been at the forefront of efforts to stem disease and promote health worldwide. The site has information on many public health issues including head lice

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html>

### The ABCs of Safe and Healthy Child Care:

This provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). CDC has written this handbook to help you, the childcare provider, reduce sickness, injury, and other health problems in your childcare facility.

It contains information on many childcare topics including heal lice.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/abc/facts18.htm>

## **Eczema**

### Adam.com:

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www2.adam.com/ency/article/000853.htm>

### The National Eczema Society:

The National Eczema Society was formed in 1975 when a newspaper article, prompting a large public response, indicated a vital need for an information and support service for people with eczema and their careers. From small beginnings the Society has grown to provide a comprehensive information and advice service, an extensive network of local contacts, an expanding network of local support, funds for research and a campaigning voice on behalf of people with eczema.

<http://www.eczema.org/>

### American Academy of Dermatology:

The American Academy of Dermatology is the largest, most influential and most representative of all dermatological associations. With a membership of over 11,000, it represents virtually all practicing dermatologists in the United States and Canada. Good information on eczema along with many other skin disorders

<http://www.aad.org/new/aadpamphrework/eczema.html>

### Dermnet:

Dermnet is the official page of the New Zealand Dermatological Society. All page content is review by an editorial committee. The site has information about a wide variety of skin disorders. Pictures of some condition are provided.

<http://www.dermnet.org.nz/index.html>

## **Otitis Media**

### Health World:

Health World is an organization devoted to providing health information with a focus on “blending conventional and alternative complementary medicine”. With a strong regard for self-care and encouraging healthy lifestyles.

<http://www.healthy.net/library/books/healthyself/children/earaches.htm>

### KidsHealth.org:

Created by the medical experts at The Nemours Foundation. The site has a great deal of information children issues for parents. The site also a section designed just for Kids.

[http://kidshealth.org/parent/common/otitis\\_media.html](http://kidshealth.org/parent/common/otitis_media.html)

### American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery:

This organization represents the physicians who specialize in disorder related to the head and neck.

A link to the public service brochure.

<http://www.entnet.org/earache.html>



## **Bronchiolitis**

KidsHealth.org:

Created by the medical experts at The Nemours Foundation. The site has a great deal of information children issues for parents. The site also a section designed just for Kids.

<http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/common/bronchiolitis.html>

American Academy of Family Physicians:

This organization represent physicians who specialize in family care. This link provides general information on bronchiolitis.

<http://www.aafp.org/patientinfo/bronchio.html>

## Tuberculosis

### Adam

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of Topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/000077.htm>

### KidsHealth

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

For Parents:

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/common/tuberculosis.html>

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters. At times the information is complex.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_1459838](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_1459838)

### New Jersey Medical School National Tuberculosis Center

The New Jersey Medical School National Tuberculosis Center is one of the three Model Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Centers in the United States which are federally funded. The site has a lot a easy to understand information and includes a section for physicians.

<http://www.umdnj.edu/~ntbcweb/tbq%26a.htm>

### Tuberculosis.net:

This site from the faculty of the Montefor Medical Center targeted to hear care professionals and educators. The site contains a great deal of information about tuberculosis and patient education materials.

<http://www.tuberculosis.net/>

## **Alzheimer's Disease**

### Adam

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of Topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/000760.htm>

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters. At times the information is complex.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_40001](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_40001)

### Alzheimer's Association of Massachusetts:

The Massachusetts Chapter an alliance of family members, individuals with dementia and professionals dedicated to helping people with chronic dementing illnesses and their families through education, advocacy, and support.

<http://www.alzmass.org/>

### BU Alzheimer's Association:

The BU Alzheimer's Association the distribution of information to Investigators, Families, Caregivers and others interested in Alzheimer's Disease. The site has a great online learning center for Alzheimer's Disease.

<http://206.119.4.214/alzheimer/on-line.htm>

### Alzheimer's Disease Education and Referral (ADEAR)

The National Institute on Aging supports this site. The site has latest news from NIA about Alzheimer's disease research, symptoms and diagnosis, treatment and drug trials, services for patients and families, and professional meetings.

<http://www.alzheimers.org/>

## **Glaucoma**

### Adam

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/001620.htm>

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters. At times the information is complex.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_40040](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_40040)

### Eye Net:

Eye Net is the web site of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. The American Academy of Ophthalmology is a national organization of physicians who specialize in eye care. A great deal of information about eye care is available on the site.

<http://www.eyenet.org/public/glaucoma/glaucoma.html>

### Health Gate:

Health Gate is online health information publishing company. The site has information for physicians, patients and consumers.

<http://www.bewell.com/hic/glaucoma/>

### The Glaucoma Foundation:

The Glaucoma Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to glaucoma research and public education worldwide. The site has information about support for glaucoma suffers and general information about the disorder.

<http://www.glaucoma-foundation.org/info/about.htm>

## **Shigella/ Dysentery**

### Adam

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

Information about shigella:

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/000295.htm>

### KidsHealth

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

Information about Amebic Dysentery for Parents:

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/common/amebiasis.html>

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters. At times the information is complex.

Information about both kinds of dysentery:

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_1457401](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_1457401)

### Thrive Online:

Thrive Online is an online health site which focuses on providing information about healthy living and other health concerns. The site was create by Time and America Online in 1996 and employs a broad range of experts to ensure the quality of information.

General Information about shigella:

<http://www.thriveonline.com/health/Library/pedillsymp/pedillsymp123.html>

### Center for Disease Control and Prevention

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), located in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, is an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services. The CDC's mission is to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability.

Information about shigella:

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/shigellosis\\_g.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/shigellosis_g.htm)

## **Depression**

### Adam

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/003213.htm>

### KidsHealth

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

General Information for Teens:

<http://kidshealth.org/teen/bodymind/depression.html>

How you can tell if you're depressed:

<http://kidshealth.org/teen/question/depressed.html>

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters. At times the information is complex.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_40026](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_40026)

### Depression Central:

This site provides information on many different mood disorders. There is a great deal of information but some of it is highly technical

<http://www.psycom.net/depression.central.begin.html>

### Depression.com

This web site dedicated to helping people deal with depression. It provides access to the latest news, polls, and treatments, plus sections on sex, sleep, and suicide.

<http://www.depression.com/>

## **Suicide:**

### KidsHealth

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

General information for Parents:

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/behavior/suicide.html>

Story and information for teens:

<http://kidshealth.org/teen/body/mind/suicide.html>

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters. At times the information is complex.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_1459608](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_1459608)

### American Foundation for Suicide Prevention:

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) was founded in 1987. The AFSP is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to funding suicide prevention research, and to offering educational programs and conferences for survivors, mental health professionals, physicians, and the public.

<http://www.afsp.org/about/home.htm>

### American Association of Suicidology:

American Association of Suicidology, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the understanding and prevention of suicide. This site has a lot of general suicide information along with information about support links.

<http://www.suicidology.org/>

## **Chlamydia:**

### Adam

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/001345.htm>

### KidsHealth

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

For Parents:

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/common/chlamydia.html>

For teens:

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/001345.htm>

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters. At times the information is complex.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_5962998](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_5962998)

### Boston University STD:

This web site has clear easy to understand information about Sexual transmitted disease. The fact sheet includes details on its causes, how it's contracted, duration, prevention, and treatment.

<http://www.bu.edu/cohis/std/chlamyda.htm>



**Genital warts:**

Adam

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/000886.htm>

KidsHealth

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

For Teens:

[http://kidshealth.org/teen/bodymind/std\\_warts.html](http://kidshealth.org/teen/bodymind/std_warts.html)

WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters. At times the information is complex.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_5462752](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_5462752)

Boston University STD:

This web site has clear easy to understand information about Sexual transmitted disease. The factsheet includes details on its causes, how it's contracted, duration, prevention, and treatment.

<http://www.bu.edu/cohis/std/warts.htm>

## **Gonorrhea**

### Adam

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

Information for women

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/000656.htm>

Information for men

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/000623.htm>

### KidsHealth

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

For Teens:

[http://kidshealth.org/teen/body/mind/std\\_gonorrhea.html](http://kidshealth.org/teen/body/mind/std_gonorrhea.html)

For Parents:

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/common/gonococcal.html>

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters. At times the information is complex.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_5962999](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_5962999)

### Boston University STD:

This web site has clear easy to understand information about Sexual transmitted disease. The Factsheet includes details on its causes, how it's contracted, duration, prevention, and treatment.

<http://www.bu.edu/cohis/std/gonorrhea.htm>

## Herpes

### Adam

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/000857trt.htm>

### KidsHealth

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

For Teens:

[http://kidshealth.org/teen/bodymind/std\\_herpes.html](http://kidshealth.org/teen/bodymind/std_herpes.html)

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters. At times the information is complex.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_5963000](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_5963000)

### Boston University STD:

This web site has clear easy to understand information about Sexual transmitted disease. The Factsheet includes details on its causes, how it's contracted, duration, prevention, and treatment.

<http://www.bu.edu/cohis/std/herpes.htm>

## HIV/AIDS

### Adam

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/000594.htm>

### KidsHealth

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

General Information for Teens:

[http://kidshealth.org/teen/bodymind/std\\_hiv.html](http://kidshealth.org/teen/bodymind/std_hiv.html)

Can I get Aids? for teens:

<http://kidshealth.org/teen/question/AIDS.html>

general Information for Kids:

<http://kidshealth.org/kid/question/aids.html>

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters. At times the information is complex.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_5462544](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_5462544)

### Boston University STD:

This web site has clear easy to understand information about Sexual transmitted disease. The Factsheet includes details on its causes, how it's contracted, duration, prevention, and treatment.

<http://www.bu.edu/cohis/aids/aidsmenu.htm>

### Massachusetts Department of Public Health:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health provides information on health concerns for Massachusetts. The web site includes a AIDS/HIV Bureau that has a great deal of information about the disease

<http://www.state.ma.us/dph/aids/>

## **Pelvic Inflammatory Disease**

### Adam

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/000888.htm>

### KidsHealth

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

General Information for Teens:

[http://kidshealth.org/teen/bodymind/std\\_pid.html](http://kidshealth.org/teen/bodymind/std_pid.html)

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters. At times the information is complex.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_5963076](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_5963076)

### MCare

MCare is a health company started in 1986 at the University of Michigan. The site has general information about health issues with a focus on self-care.

<http://www.mcare.org/healthtips/homecare/pelvicin.htm>

## Syphilis

### Adam

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/001327.htm>

### KidsHealth

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

General Information for Teens:

[http://kidshealth.org/teen/bodymind/std\\_syphilis.html](http://kidshealth.org/teen/bodymind/std_syphilis.html)

For Parents:

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/common/syphilis.html>

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters. At times the information is complex.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_1459644](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_1459644)

### Boston University STD:

This web site has clear easy to understand information about Sexual transmitted disease. The Factsheet includes details on its causes, how it's contracted, duration, prevention, and treatment.

<http://www.bu.edu/cohis/std/syphilis.htm>

## **Bacterial Vaginosis**

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters. At times the information is complex.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_5963081](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_5963081)

### STD Control Branch:

The STD Control Branch operates as an integrated service combining clinical and public health activities. Based out of the Royal Adelaide Hospital in Australia the site has a great deal of easy to understand information about STD's.

[http://www.stdservices.on.net/std/bacterial\\_vaginosis/facts14.htm](http://www.stdservices.on.net/std/bacterial_vaginosis/facts14.htm)

### Discovery Health:

Discover Health is the health web site of the TV Discovery Channel. The site provides has information a on a broad range of health topics.

<http://www.discoveryhealth.com/DH/ihtIH/WSDSC000/20812/9523.html>

### Virtual Hospital:

The Virtual Hospital is a digital health science library created in 1992 at the University of Iowa. to help meet the information needs of health care providers and patients. The site contains hundreds of books and brochures for health care providers and patients that are easy to understand.

<http://www.vh.org/Patients/IHB/ObGyn/BacterialVaginosis.html>

## **Breast Cancer**

### Adam

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

General Information:

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/000913.htm>

What Every Woman Should Do:

[http://www.adam.com/womens\\_health/breast\\_cancer.htm](http://www.adam.com/womens_health/breast_cancer.htm)

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters. At times the information is complex.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_summary\\_account\\_1570](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_summary_account_1570)

### Breast Cancer Network:

The breast cancer network is supported by the American Cancer Society. The site has information about people and programs educating the public about breast cancer detection and treatment. The site also provides access to research and support information.

<http://www2.cancer.org/bcn/index.html>

### BreastCancerInfo.com:

Breast Cancer Info.com is a service of the Susan Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The site is easy to navigate through the extensive pages of news, events, and survivor's stories..

[http://www.breastcancerinfo.com/bhealth/html/q\\_a\\_menu.asp](http://www.breastcancerinfo.com/bhealth/html/q_a_menu.asp)



### **Mammogram:**

#### Adam

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/003380.htm>

#### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters. At times the information is complex.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_58155](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_58155)

#### Breast Cancer Network:

The breast cancer network is supported by the American Cancer Society. The site has information about people and programs educating the public about breast cancer detection and treatment. The site also provides access to research and support information.

<http://www2.cancer.org/bcn/mamog/>

#### Mammograms: What You Should Know:

This page is a fact sheet on mammograms presented by Avon's Breast Awareness Campaign. The site is very easy to understand and has a wealth of information.

<http://www.pmedia.com/Avon/mammog.html>

**Breast exam:**Adam

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/001993.htm>

KidsHealth

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

General Information for Teens:

<http://kidshealth.org/teen/bodymind/obgyn.html>

WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters. At times the information is complex.

<http://trfn.clpgh.org/bcis/GeneralInfo/bse.html>

New York Department of Public Health:

New York Department of Public Health provides this page on how to perform a self-breast examination. The site gives detailed instructions and has helpful illustrations

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/consumer/cancer/mammo/selfbse.htm>

**Menopause:**

Adam

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/000894trt.htm>

WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters. At times the information is complex.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_6462946](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_6462946)

Menopause Online.com

Menopause Online.com provides women with up-to-date, easy to use information. The site has many resource for women facing menopause.

<http://www.menopause-online.com/>

Virtual Hospital:

The Virtual Hospital is a digital health science library created in 1992 at the University of Iowa. to help meet the information needs of health care providers and patients. The site contains hundreds of books and brochures for health care providers and patients that are easy to understand.

Information about helping your partner through menopause:

<http://www.vh.org/Patients/IHB/ObGyn/Menopause.html>

### **Pap Smear:**

#### Adam

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/003911.htm>

#### KidsHealth

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

General Information for Teens:

<http://kidshealth.org/teen/bodymind/obgyn.html>

#### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters. At times the information is difficult to understand.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_5462877](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_5462877)

#### ABC News.com:

The ABC New.com health & living web site provide information on a wide range of health topics in a straightforward way. The site is easy to read and has nice illustrations.

[http://www.abcnews.go.com/sections/living/HealthyWoman/healthywoman\\_12.html](http://www.abcnews.go.com/sections/living/HealthyWoman/healthywoman_12.html)

## **Pelvic Exam**

### KidsHealth

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

General Information for Teens:

<http://kidshealth.org/teen/bodymind/obgyn.html>

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters. At times the information is difficult to understand.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_5962977](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_5962977)

### GYN101:

The GYN101 web site provides accurate information about a gynecological visit. It gives information about patient rights and what to expect during a visit to a gynecologist.

<http://www.gyn101.com/indexE.htm>

## **Yeast Infection**

### Adam

Created by the founders of a major medical illustrations firm. The site Has online medical and health information on a wide range of topics. There are many great health illustration found at this site.

<http://www.adam.com/ency/article/001511trt.htm>

### KidsHealth

Created by the medical experts at the Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media. The Nemours Foundation, an organization funding children's hospitals in Delaware and Florida. The site has a great deal of information on children issues for parents. The site also has a section designed just for Kids.

For Teens:

[http://kidshealth.org/teen/bodymind/body/yeast\\_infections.html](http://kidshealth.org/teen/bodymind/body/yeast_infections.html)

### WebMD

WebMD is online news organization dedicated to provide health information. Their goal is to offer sound, accurate, and credible information. Information comes was a wide range of credible health experts and health news reporters. At times the information is complex.

[http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk\\_article\\_5963081](http://my.webmd.com/content/dmk/dmk_article_5963081)

### Monistat:

The Monistat webpage has a great deal of information about yeast infections.

<http://www.monistat.com/advice.html>

## Appendix E: Benchmarking

Review of IntelliHealth 9/25/99  
www.intelihealth.com

Overall Rating: Excellent.

The site has a huge amount of information and which is reference in multiple ways. Information is clear and easy to understand.

About the Site:

Site is a joint venture between Aetna U.S. Healthcare and John Hopkins University and Health System. The site has won the Webby Award for best health related site.

Area of service:

Not targeted to specific geographic region

Organization of Page

Huge amount of information on site and many links to other sites.  
Information is reference broken into different sections.  
Most popular topics from different sections on first page  
First page has Weekly Information  
First page has Daily Information  
First Page has a search engine for the site

Use of Experts

Review material on site  
Provide Information for site  
Answer Email questions  
Picture of experts is used  
Brief list of qualifications

Features:

This site has the most features I have found so far. They included  
Drug Search  
Condition Center  
Healthy Living  
Women's Health  
Men's Health  
Free Health related emails  
Free Newsletter  
Ask the Doc  
Medical Dictionary  
This Week Section  
Daily Section



Review of NetWellness 9/26/99  
www.netwellness.org

Overall Rating: OK.

Site is well organized but information has varied quality and limited scope.  
Information on a particular topic is spread out over many experts' responses.

About the Site:

Site is a joint venture between University of Cincinnati, Ohio State University and Case Western Reserve University

Area of service:

Ohio geographic region

Organization of Page

Information is most in the form of replies from doctors  
Many links to other sites.  
Information is reference broken into different sections.  
First Page has a search engine for the site

Use of Experts

Featured experts  
Used to answer question which are emailed in.  
Quality of response varies a great deal  
Picture of experts is used  
Brief list of qualifications

Features:

This site has the most features I have found so far. They included  
How to use information  
Ask an Expert  
Today's New (not on first page)  
Referrals  
List of Clinical Trails  
Library





Appendix F: Criteria for Evaluating Internet Health Information :

### **Criteria for Evaluating Internet Health Information:**

There are hundreds if not thousands of sites providing health information on the Internet today. Determining the value of a site is often difficult for the experienced Web Surfer. Users of HealthNet with little Internet experience will need guidelines to help sort through the overwhelming amount of information available to them. HealthNet can help provide these guidelines in this section of the web page.

Evaluating Internet Health Information in needed section of UMass HealthNet

Suggested plan:

List major areas of concern and give brief descriptions of each area. Then link to another site with more extensive information:

Six Major Areas:

**Credibility** of source

**Content** accurate and complete

**Disclosure** of purpose of site and any data that is being collected

**Links** organization, range and number of links

**Design** organized, easy access to information

**Interactivity** feed back and information exchange

Possibly link this site as the resource of Evaluating Internet Health Information:

<http://hitiweb.mitretek.org/docs/policy.html>

## Appendix G: Survey Instructions

From jvandyke@WPI.EDU Fri Mar 3 23:17:18 2000  
Date: Tue, 8 Feb 2000 16:10:48 -0500  
From: "Van Dyke, JoAnn" <jvandyke@WPI.EDU>  
To: "Flagg, Seth" <yawkey@WPI.EDU>  
Subject: HealthNet Survey

Seth,  
Here is the cover letter I have put together. Make sure it says what you need and return to me. Two of us have already completed the survey. Looks good!

Good Afternoon,

I am asking for a few minutes of your time to help a WPI student with a project he is doing as a degree requirement. He has been working with UMMC in the development of a Web page that will be available in a variety of settings for both consumer use as well as faculty and med students. He is asking for "professionals" to view it for accessibility and readability and fill out a short survey. This can all be viewed on the web and the survey can be done and returned via the web. Please feel free to share it with your staff, the more the better. He asks that it be done and forwarded by February 15, 2000. If you have any questions please get in touch with him via his e-mail.

JoAnn

Greetings,

I am Seth Flagg, a senior at WPI. For my senior year research project I have been helping to develop the UMass HealthNet Initiative. UMass HealthNet is an outreach initiative administered by the Lamar Soutter Library of the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS). The project establishes a vehicle for reliable consumer health information geared towards Massachusetts's residents.

As part of the development process we are conducting an evaluation of our work so far. Your input will help shape the future direction of UMass HealthNet. It would be very helpful if you could take fifteen minutes and follow the evaluation instructions below:

Before You Start:

When you are evaluating the web site please keep the following in mind:  
1. The site is still under development, but feel free to look around. Please only base your evaluation on the pages listed below, as the rest are not finished.

2. The sections of the site you are evaluating are targeted towards patients and health care consumers with an eighth grade reading level.

Step #1:  
Please look at the following web page:

UMass HealthNet Front Page:  
<http://HealthNet.umassmed.edu/>

This page provides an introduction to UMass HealthNet. Once all the areas are complete, there will be an index on this page that lists all health topics.

Step #2:  
Please look at the following health topic pages:

Otitis Media (Ear Infection)  
<http://HealthNet.umassmed.edu/test/otitismedia.html>

Bronchiolitis  
<http://HealthNet.umassmed.edu/test/bronchio.html>

Circumcision  
<http://HealthNet.umassmed.edu/test/circumcision.html>

Step #3:  
Fill out the online evaluation from:  
<http://www.wpi.edu/+Bio/iqpsurvey.html>

Thank you for your time.

If you have any questions contact:  
Seth Y. Flagg  
WPI '00  
Biology/ Theatre Technology  
831-5042  
[yawkey@wpi.edu](mailto:yawkey@wpi.edu)



## Appendix H: Survey

**Survey for UMass HealthNet:**

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex:     Male                    Female

Highest level of education completed (please circle):

- a. 6<sup>th</sup> grade (Elementary School)
- b. 8<sup>th</sup> grade (Jr. High school)
- c. 12<sup>th</sup> grade (High school)
- d. Undergraduate degree
- e. Master's degree
- f. Professional Degree (Doctor, Dentist, Lawyer...etc.)

Where is your primary residence:

- a. Western Massachusetts
- b. Central Massachusetts
- c. Eastern Massachusetts
- d. USA (other than MA)
- e. Country other than USA

What is your primary language: \_\_\_\_\_

Other languages (if any) in which you are fluent: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about HealthNet: \_\_\_\_\_

Please examine the questions below. Select the choice(s) that best represent your personal activities or choices.

1) I use the Internet to find Health Information:(circle one)

- a. First time
- b. Almost never
- c. Sometimes
- d. All the time

2) I use the following for getting Health Information (circle all that apply):

- a. Pamphlets at doctor's office
- b. News article in the paper
- c. Television reports
- d. What doctors & nurses tell me
- e. What other people tell me
- f. Health magazines
- g. Professional journal
- h. Others (please list):

3) In general, I seek health information for (circle all that apply):

- a. Myself
- b. Other people (family/friends)
- c. Part of my job
- d. Other reasons (please list):

4) In general, I am interested in health information on: (circle those that apply)

- a. Diseases
- b. Staying healthy--wellness and prevention
- c. Support groups
- d. Contact other people or agencies

5) I would like to see more information on the following topics or areas:

6) General Comments about the UMass HealthNet Initiative:

Please select the most appropriate and honest response for each question:

**SD** = Strongly Disagree                      **D** =Disagree  
**A** =Agree    **SA** =Strongly Agree

- |   |    |   |   |    |
|---|----|---|---|----|
| 7) Finding the desired information was easy:                | SA | A | D | SD |
| 8) This web site was easy to navigate:                      | SA | A | D | SD |
| 9) The information on this website was easy to understand:  | SA | A | D | SD |
| 11) This site contained health information that was useful: | SA | A | D | SD |
| 12) You would recommend UMass HealthNet to a friend:        | SA | A | D | SD |
| 13) The web site was well organized:                        | SA | A | D | SD |
| 14) The web site had a professional look and feel:          | SA | A | D | SD |
| 15) I understood the information presented on the web site: | SA | A | D | SD |
| 16) The material on the web site was easy to read:          | SA | A | D | SD |

If you are a health care professional please answer the following additional questions:

- |  |    |   |   |    |
|--|----|---|---|----|
| 17) The web site reflected well on the reputation of UMMS: | SA | A | D | SD |
| 18) I recommend UMass HealthNet to a patient:              | SA | A | D | SD |
| 19) Information on the web site is accurate:               | SA | A | D | SD |

Thank You  
The UMass HealthNet Staff

Appendix I: HealthNet Website Printouts



UMass HealthNet is an outreach initiative administered by the Lamar Soutter Library of the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS). The project establishes a vehicle for reliable consumer health information geared towards Massachusetts residents.

HealthNet objectives are born out of a desire to expand access to health information to consumers, physicians, health professionals, and students. HealthNet responds to the need for evaluated health information resources made available through the latest technologies

## UMass HealthNet: Patient & Consumer Health Information

[More About UMass HealthNet](#)

[Send us feedback](#)

[Read Our Disclaimer](#)

UMass HealthNet anticipates a formal release of its locally designed health topics by April 30, 2000. Below is a list of health information resources for patients and their families. Watch this space for more

### Current Local Resources for

AIDS/HIV: [WAHAIN](#), The Library's AIDS Outreach initiative.

[Breast Cancer Resource Guide](#)

[Asthma](#)

[Diabetes](#)

## Other Consumer Health Information Resources

## Available through Massachusetts Library Network

### Health Reference Center through Infotrac

**UMass Connection for On-network Connection** enter here if your computer is on the UMMS/UMMHC network.

**Public Library Card Number** enter your public library card number (any Massachusetts municipality should work).

The Health Reference Center is a database of patient education resources compiled from different sources, including:

- Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine
- USP-Drug Information for Patients
- Columbia University Home Medical Guide
- Mayo Clinic Health Letter
- Selected Biomedical Journals
- Others

Types of formats include:

- Reference Book excerpt
- Pamphlets
- Dictionary Definitions
- Periodical references

### Government & Association Sponsored Sites

**HealthFinder**: From the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

**MEDLINEplus**: From the National Library of Medicine, a guide to consumer-based information from the government and association sources.

**Health Insight**: From the American Medical Association

**KidsHealth at the AMA** This site contains helpful information for parents, kids and professionals provided by The American Medical Association and The Nemours Foundation.

**Family Medicine Online** Search or browse for health information from the American Academy of Family Physicians.

**Mayo Health Clinic Library** Information and illustrations on this site are prepared and reviewed by a team of Mayo Clinic physicians and educators.

**The Merck Manual The Home Edition** transforms *Merck's Diagnosis & Therapy* (used by health professionals) into commonly used language while retaining information about diseases, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment.

### Commercial Sites

**InteliHealth** From Aetna US HealthCare and Johns Hopkins University

**Mediconsult.com (The Virtual Medical Center)** Mediconsult produces patient-based health information and is not affiliated with a parent organization or any of its advertisers.



# UMass HealthNet

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[Core Values](#)

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## About HealthNet

### [HealthNet Home](#)

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[Disclaimer](#)

UMass HealthNet anticipates a formal release of its locally designed health topics by Winter of 2000.

## **Overview of Project**

UMass HealthNet is an outreach initiative administered by the Lamar Soutter Library of the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS). The project establishes a vehicle for reliable consumer health information geared towards Massachusetts residents. The project also addresses the need for connectivity for UMMS faculty and students at off-campus teaching locations.

The website provides original information as well as links to critically evaluated resources geared for patients and offer information on health care services in the central and western Massachusetts regions. The website is designed to emphasize locally produced information on pertinent health topics. Experts in the UMMS and its clinical partner UMass Memorial Health Care develop topic areas. Local health associations and agencies also contribute material to the site. The website serves as a clearinghouse for information about local agencies, and health services corporations. The website links to other health information resources of national repute.

HealthNet objectives are borne out of a desire to expand much-needed access to health information to consumers, physicians, health professionals, and students. HealthNet responds to the need for evaluated health information resources made available through the latest technologies.

## **HealthNet Core Values**



- Reliable information on health topics
- Partnership with local resources
- Centralized maintenance of website, uniform look and feel
- Decentralized production of content by contributors
- Serve the Massachusetts community of patients, physicians, health professionals
- Serve areas without previous access to health information resources

## **Umass HealthNet Mission Statement**

HealthNet's mission is to provide reliable information on health topics for the central and western Massachusetts community. HealthNet strives to guide consumers through myriad health information resources by featuring reliable information produced in partnership with local experts and serving as a central point for disseminating other health information resources.

### **Objectives:**

- Develop health information content geared for consumers by combining resources of local health agencies
- Serve as a link for local health agency information to the central and western Massachusetts community
- Educate the central and western Massachusetts community on access and evaluation of health information resources
- Provide access to health information to patients, physicians and health professional via technology outreach

### **Primary Agencies/Sponsor**

HealthNet is a project developed by the Lamar Soutter Library of the University of Massachusetts Medical School in collaboration with UMass Memorial Health Care and is supported by a grant from The William Randolph Hearst Foundations.



Health Information for Central & Western Massachusetts

Child and Infant Health

Ear Infection

N. Lynn Eckhart, MD, Dr.PH

Home

Diseases

Wellness

Contents

What is Otitis Media

Signs of Ear Infection

Causes of Ear Infection

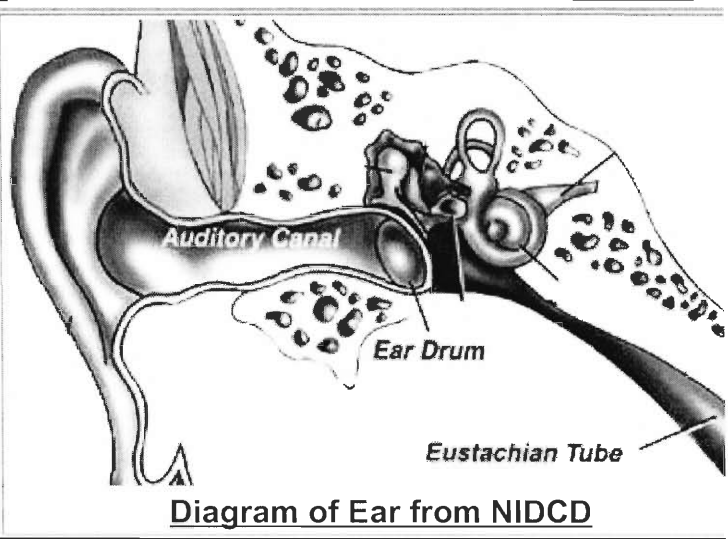
What to Do

It doesn't go away...

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|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Your provider may refer to an ear infection or middle ear infection as <b>otitis media</b> |              |
| <i>Otitis</i>  | <i>Media</i> |
| Ear(Ot) + inflammation(-itis)  | middle       |



### WHAT IS OTITIS MEDIA?

Otitis media is an infection of the middle ear. A common disease in children, one Boston study showed 80% of children had otitis media at least once by age 3 years.

The middle ear is a chamber filled with air, it can fill with fluid when it does not drain correctly. The fluid becomes infected by bacteria or viruses. The fluid causes pressure and pain in the ear.

Children frequently get middle ear infections because they get upper respiratory infections more often. At their age the position of the **Eustachian tube**, enables back up of fluid containing viruses and bacteria.

### WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS?

- Ear pain
- Fever
- Fullness, pressure, or pulling at ear – and draining ear
- Runny nose

## WHAT CAUSES EAR INFECTIONS?

An ear infection is caused by bacteria and respiratory viruses.

Certain factors increase the likelihood of ear infections

- Family history
- Exposure to smoking
- Attendance at day care
- Previous episodes of otitis media
- Feeding of infant in reclining position
- Breast-feeding has a protective against otitis media.

## HOW DOES MY HEALTH CARE PROVIDER KNOW IT'S AN INFECTION

The diagnosis is made by careful listening to the history and by physical examination. Your health care provider will use the **otoscope** to examine your child's ears to determine any signs of otitis media.

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### Terms to know

#### Eustachian Tube

*the air tube connecting the middle ear to the tubes leading to the nose*

#### Otoscope

*an otoscope is used to see into the ear canal*

#### Tympanic Membrane

*the tissue stretching over the end of the canal, sound vibrates on the tympanic membrane and*

### How is an Ear Infection Treated

Antibiotics are the treatment of choice in cases of bacterial otitis media. The choice of antibiotics is related to the common bacterial causes of otitis media in the community.

There is much concern in the United States about the rapid development of resistance to antibiotics by some bacteria. Some practitioners are not using antibiotics initially particularly if there is reason to believe that the middle ear infection may be due to a virus. Viral cases do not need antibiotics therapy.

### RECURRENT OR PERSISTENT OTITIS MEDIA

Recurrent cases of otitis media, usually 3 episodes in 6 months may require prophylactic antibiotics for several months. A single dose of an antibiotic is given daily to prevent another ear infection.

Persistent cases that do not respond to antibiotics may require a visit to the ENT (ear, nose and throat) physician for evaluation for need for drainage of the middle ear by ventilating tubes. Other possible complications such as persistent perforation may be referred to the

through the rest of  
the inner ear

complications such as a persistent perforation may be referred to the ENT physician.

#### FOLLOW – UP

Most cases of otitis media even those in which the tympanic membrane (eardrum) perforated heal without complications. However, some uncommon complications may occur such as persistent perforation, extension of infections to surrounding tissues or speech delay or hearing loss.

#### HOW IS OTITIS MEDIA PREVENTED?

Although all cases of otitis media cannot be prevented the following recommendations may reduce the incidence.

- Breast feeding
- Avoidance of exposure to smoking
- Avoidance of infant feeding in reclining position

#### LINKS TO OTHER SITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

From KidsHealth.org [Acute Otitis Media](#) KidsHealth is the health information site from the Nemours Foundation and Child Media Center

[Adam.com](#) provides [diagram of the ear](#) and more information on [different types of ear infections](#)

From the [National Institute on Deafness and Communication Disorders](#) a [fact sheet on Otitis Media](#)

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Health Information for Central &amp; Western Massachusetts

Infants &amp; Children

## Bronchiolitis

by N. Lynn Eckhert, MD, Dr. PH

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**Terms to know**

**RSV:** Respiratory  
Syncytial Virus  
*the virus causing  
bronchiolitis*

**BPD:**  
Bronchopulmonary  
dysplasia  
*When the lungs of  
newborn infants*

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| <i>Bronchiol(es):</i>                           | <i>-itis</i>             |
| The tiny branches of air tubes within the lungs | inflammation or swelling |

### **WHAT IS BRONCHIOLITIS?**

Bronchiolitis is a respiratory infection which occurs most commonly in infants. The infection causes swelling of the airway passages or bronchioles. Older children and adults who have wider airway passages usually do not get bronchiolitis but have cold symptoms.

### **WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS?**

General signs:

- Runny nose
- A Mild cough
- Fever

Signs of difficulty breathing:

- Very rapid respirations
- Wheezing noise
- Rib cage is drawn in
- Difficulty sucking or swallowing
- Poor color (blue tint around nose or fingernails)

Signs of dehydration

- Dry mouth
- No tears
- Few wet diapers

### **WHAT CAUSES BRONCHIOLITIS?**

*newborn infants are not developed normally. In BPD a child's airways inside the lungs are swollen and causing difficulty in bringing air to the blood.*

- Viruses: one specific virus [the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)] is commonly the cause on bronchiolitis.
- Seasonal: Bronchiolitis most often occurs from October to March.

### **HOW IS BRONCHIOLITIS TREATED?**

- Nose drops of a salt and water solution are used to thin nasal mucus.
- A cool-mist humidifier (vaporizer) in your baby's room should help.
- Plenty of fluids should be given.

### **PREVENTION**

- Viral illnesses including RSV are often spread by contact by droplet exposure or from contaminated hands. Try to keep your baby from being exposed to other children and adults with respiratory infections. Make sure that you and other caretakers wash your hands.
- **To Prevent Dehydration** Make sure your baby drinks lots of fluid so that she does not become dehydrated. Your baby may prefer clear liquids rather than breast milk or formula. Your child may feed more slowly and may find solid foods intolerable because of difficulty in breathing.

### **WHEN TO SEEK CARE FROM YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER?**

- If your child has difficulty breathing and rapid respirations, indrawing of rib cage or dehydration as described above call your health care provider. Some children may require evaluation and even hospitalization. Those with serious infections may be treated with an anti-RSV medication.

### **IMMUNIZATION**

Vaccine to prevent RSV infection is recommended for certain children.

- Infants with bronchopulmonary dysplasia
- Some premature infants

The decision to give the vaccine depends on the age and health of the child and the likelihood of exposure to RSV.

### **LINKS TO OTHER SITES FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Common Childhood Infections Guidelines for Parents** from the American Academy of Pediatrics. This document discusses respiratory infections including bronchiolitis.

**Fact Sheet on Respiratory Syncytial Virus** from the American Lung Association

**What You Should Know About...RSV in the Child Care Setting** from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, part of their ABCs of Safe and Healthy Child Care

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