

# HOW TO Find Reliable Health Information Online



## Quick tips for “healthy” internet searching



**DO NOT**

Search the entire internet. Googling symptoms to try and diagnose yourself generally leads to an inaccurate diagnosis and a lot of anxiety. Start with some of the links listed in the table below.



**DO NOT**

Automatically trust information found on the web. Websites can be built by anyone, including people with no educational or professional qualifications.



**DO**

Verify sources of information. Does the site provide references to professional sources?



**DO**

Make an appointment to follow up with your doctor if you have questions.



**DO**

Check to see if the information is current (less than three years old is best)



**DO**

Be wary of sites with “.com” web addresses. These sites might have some reliable information, but their main goal may not be to educate but to generate money.



### Where do I start?

| SITE NAME   | WEB ADDRESS  | SPONSORED BY                                     |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Family Doctor.org</b>                            | <a href="http://familydoctor.org">familydoctor.org</a>   | American Academy of Family Physicians            |
| <b>Johns Hopkins Health Library</b>                 | <a href="http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/healthlibrary">www.hopkinsmedicine.org/healthlibrary</a>   | The Johns Hopkins University                     |
| <b>Mayo Clinic Diseases &amp; Conditions</b>        | <a href="http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions">www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions</a> | Mayo Foundation for Medical Education & Research |
| <b>Centers for Disease Control &amp; Prevention</b> | <a href="http://www.cdc.gov">www.cdc.gov</a>   | US Dept. of Health & Human Services              |
| <b>National Institute of Health</b>                 | <a href="http://www.nih.gov/health-information">www.nih.gov/health-information</a>                 | US Dept. of Health & Human Services              |
| <b>Pima County Health Department</b>                | <a href="http://www.pima.gov/2031/Health">www.pima.gov/2031/Health</a>                             |  |
| <b>AZ Department of Health Services</b>             | <a href="http://www.azdhs.gov">www.azdhs.gov</a>   |  |