



Web Sitings

New HCV Resource

The VA health care system handles more cases of chronic hepatitis C virus than any other medical system in the nation. That's why they recently launched a new, online resource for both patients with the disease and their VA health care providers. The VA National Hepatitis C Program site (www.hepatitis.va.gov) includes "Educational Resources for Providers," a section that features content accessible by topic or type of material; the "Patient's Corner," which provides basic information on the disease for patients, their families, and the general public; and a section titled "VA Services and Contacts," which lists hepatitis C prevention, care, and research services available within the VA health care system.

Other highlights of the site include up-to-date documents and study results, treatment recommendations, and a how-to guide on initiating and managing a hepatitis support group at your health care facility.



Now Hear This

Direct your patients to the House Ear Institute's web site (www.hei.org) for a free, online hearing test. The test is called the HINT, or "hearing in noise test," and works by detecting a person's difficulty understanding speech in background noise. The test should work regardless of variances in a person's computer speakers. The folks at the House Ear Institute hope that people will use their free hearing test as a screening measure, which will prompt them to visit their physician for a full hearing evaluation.

Unlike traditional hearing tests that use low- and high-pitched tones to gauge hearing ability, the HINT measures a person's ability to hear in noisy and quiet

surroundings, and with sound coming from different directions. After downloading the Functional Screener application, the person must recognize and repeat short sentences (in English or Spanish) with varying degrees of background noise.

The Write Stuff

Before you submit that next medical manuscript, direct your web browser to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors' Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts page (www.icmje.org). Created primarily to help authors and editors create and distribute accurate, clear, easily accessible reports of biomedical studies, the web site's sections deal with both the ethical principles related to publishing biomedical information and the more technical aspects of preparing and submitting manuscripts.

While every journal has its own, unique editorial requirements, you should find the site's recommendations helpful in

improving the quality and clarity of your manuscript. The site also provides information on authorship and contributor status, the role of the editor, the peer review process, the intricacies of conflict of interest, privacy and confidentiality of study participants, and copyright rules. It provides an in-depth outline about the proper organization of a biomedical manuscript—from the title page to the references. Check it out, and your editors will thank you!

Health Facts Across the Country

Looking for a quick reference for health statistics in all 50 U.S. states? Well, look no further! The Kaiser Family Foundation's State Health Facts Online (www.statehealthfacts.org) contains the latest state-level data on demographics, health, and health policy—including health coverage, access, financing, and state legislation.

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You can also access bar graphs, tables, and color-coded maps comparing each state's health data, or view individual state profiles that show how that particular state compares to the country overall. Available health fact topics include: demographics and the economy, health status, health coverage and uninsured, Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program, Medicare, health costs and budgets, managed care and health insurance, providers and service use, minority health, women's health, and HIV and AIDS.

In the "resources" section, you'll find a glossary of terms, a methodology section, a topic list of all categories and subcategories used by the site, raw data to download and for offline use, and links to related publications. You also can join the mailing list to receive notice when new information is added to the site.

Movin' Online

WE MOVE—or, Worldwide Education and Awareness for Movement Disorders (www.wemove.org)—is one of the web's most comprehensive resources for



movement disorder information and education. Since 1991, this not-for-profit organization has been reaching out to patients, health care providers, and the general public about clinical advances, new management strategies, and the latest treatment options for such neurologic movement disorders as Parkinson's disease, Tourette's Syndrome, and spasticity.

Along the left side of the web page, you'll find a list of conditions. Click on one, and you'll be directed to information sheets for both patients and caregivers, which include facts about the condition's causes, symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment.

You also can participate in the section's "open chat" area or discussion forum. And there's an easily navigated glossary page as well as a section focusing on pediatric issues. For more information, sign up for the WE MOVE online newsletter.

A particularly helpful feature is the Interna-

tional Guide to Movement Disorder Patient Advocacy Groups and Foundations (under the "Support" tab). Just select a disorder from the drop down menu and connect with organizations from around the globe. It also features a list of international meetings on movement disorders for both patients and caregivers.

And don't miss the Movement Disorder Virtual University, or MDVU, where you can take advantage of WE MOVE's up-to-date training programs and interactive teaching materials. As an accredited provider of continuing medical education, the organization is continually developing new educational opportunities to help health care providers understand neurologic movement disorders.

MedBioWorld

With links to 8,000 journals representing 80 med-



ical and bioscience specialties, 7,000 medical and bioscience associations, and over 2,000 bioscience companies, the MedBioWorld site (www.medbioworld.com) is the largest medical and bioscience reference site on the web. Supported by the medical information division of Healthnostics, Inc. (Washington, DC), the site contains medical and bioscience dictionaries and glossaries, disease databases, clinical trial information, medical guidelines, and full-text articles and abstracts from medical journals. Be sure to check out the daily news page, browsable by medical specialty. ●

What Are Your Favorite Web Sites?

Let us know which health care web sites you find most useful to your federal practice. Send the web address and a brief description to:

Web Sitings
Federal Practitioner
26 Main Street
Chatham, NJ 07928-2402

Or e-mail us at fedprac@qhc.com using the subject line "Web Sitings."