



What is MedlinePlus Connect?

MedlinePlus Connect links health IT systems, patient portals and electronic health record (EHR) systems to relevant, authoritative health information (patient education) from MedlinePlus.gov. The National Library of Medicine, part of the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides this free service.

MedlinePlus Connect is a Web application and a Web service that supports the HL7 Context-Aware Knowledge Retrieval (Infobutton) Knowledge Request Standard.

What is MedlinePlus? How do patients or providers benefit from MedlinePlus?

MedlinePlus.gov offers free, reliable, up-to-date health information in English and Spanish, with no advertisements. Content is from reputable providers, including the National Institutes of Health, and other government and professional organizations. MedlinePlus helps millions of visitors a year access:

- Information on over 1,000 diseases, conditions and wellness topics
- Videos and other multimedia
- An illustrated medical encyclopedia
- Medication and supplement information
- Links to health information in over 60 languages
- and much more...

MedlinePlus.gov is your trusted source for health information. MedlinePlus Connect is a service bringing this reputable health information to patients, families, and health care providers when they need it via their patient portal or EHR.

How does MedlinePlus Connect work?

MedlinePlus Connect responds to requests based on diagnosis (problem) codes, medication codes, and laboratory test codes. When an EHR or patient portal submits a code request, MedlinePlus Connect returns a response that includes links to relevant MedlinePlus health information (patient education) in either English or Spanish. MedlinePlus Connect currently accepts the following code requests:

Problems/Diagnoses

- ICD-9-CM (International Classification of Disease, 9th edition, Clinical Modification)
- ICD-10-CM (International Classification of Disease, 10th edition, Clinical Modification)
- SNOMED CT® (Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine, Clinical Terms) — MedlinePlus Connect coverage of SNOMED CT focuses on CORE (Clinical Observations Recording and Encoding) Problem List Subset codes and their descendants

Medications

- RXCUI (RxNorm Concept Unique Identifier)
- NDC (National Drug Code)
- MedlinePlus Connect also accepts text strings for medication requests

Laboratory Tests

- LOINC® (Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes)

Who can implement MedlinePlus Connect?

MedlinePlus Connect can be implemented as a quick, one-time change by:

- Health IT, EHR or patient portal vendors who offer MedlinePlus Connect as a feature to their clients.
- Health IT, EHR or patient portal purchasers and coordinators for hospitals, clinics, provider offices, or other facilities. They may be able to implement MedlinePlus Connect directly depending on their administrative rights in their EHR system. Otherwise, they can speak with their Health IT or EHR vendors.

NLM does not charge for use of MedlinePlus Connect, and does not require user registration.

What does MedlinePlus Connect look like to the patient or provider?

The Web service and Web application provide responses in different formats.

The Web application returns a link to a formatted MedlinePlus Connect response page (see example below). This page includes links to information relevant to the problem/diagnosis, medication, or lab test.



The screenshot displays the MedlinePlus Connect interface. At the top, the NIH U.S. National Library of Medicine logo is visible. Below it, the MedlinePlus CONNECT logo is shown with the tagline 'Trusted Health Information for You'. A search bar indicates '1 result found.' and a language toggle for 'Español' is present. The main content area states: 'MedlinePlus Connect found the following health information for your request. Always consult your health care provider about your specific situation.' Below this, a search bar shows 'Results in MedlinePlus'. A red box highlights a link to 'Link to relevant MedlinePlus.gov page with extensive articles, videos and images for the patient', which points to the 'Knee Replacement' result. The result for 'Knee Replacement' is listed, with the alternative name 'Also called: Knee arthroplasty'. The description states: 'Knee replacement is surgery for people with severe knee damage. Knee replacement can relieve pain and allow you to be more active. Your doctor may recommend it if you have knee pain and medicine and other treatments are not helping you anymore. When you have a total knee replacement, the surgeon... More on Knee Replacement'.

The MedlinePlus Connect Web service returns XML, JSON, or JSONP. If the organization implementing MedlinePlus Connect decides to use the Web service instead of the Web application, they may select which MedlinePlus links and information to provide from within the system instead of automatically linking to the standard MedlinePlus Connect response page.

For details, see:

<https://medlineplus.gov/connect>

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