



*Better
Together*

Patient information

**How to find Accurate Health
Information on the Internet**

Trustwide Royal Liverpool Hospital Sites

PIF1997 V1

This leaflet explains how to search for reliable health information on the Internet and what to look for on websites.

Introduction

During your treatment journey you will be provided with information from the health professionals. This leaflet is designed to support you when looking for additional information regarding a health concern.

Although the internet is a fantastic resource you need to be aware that not all information is trustworthy or accurate. Google is a commercial company and makes money from adverts. These adverts will target your search and try to encourage you to buy their products. You also need to be aware that health information can be posted by anyone: Professionals and Researchers, but also Salespeople, Mavericks, Cranks and Fraudsters. Therefore it is vital that you know how to search via reliable sites.

Quality Standards:

The Information Standard

NHS England has commissioned an independent certification 'the Information Standard'. Look for the quality mark.



Organisations which display this mark have undergone a rigorous assessment to ensure that the health information they provide is clear, accurate, up to date and evidence based.

Health on the Net Foundation (HON)

HON is a non-profit, non-governmental organization, accredited to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

This logo will appear on sites, but to ensure that the sites are certified click on the logo and check that you are directed to a page with the HON code for the site.

www.hon.ch



Reliable Health Websites

NHS Choices – www.nhs.uk

Accredited by the Information standard

The website is funded by the Department of Health and provides trustworthy, evidence-based information collated by experts. NHS Choices is committed to the highest editorial and ethical standards in the provision of all its content and related services.

NHS Choices provides an award-winning, comprehensive health information service with thousands of articles, videos and tools, helping you to make the best choices about your health and lifestyle, but also about making the most of NHS and social care services in England.

Patient.co.uk – www.patient.co.uk

Accredited by the Information standard

Their mission is to provide trusted, accurate and up-to-date health information to the general public and healthcare professionals around the world. Throughout the site, the editorial information, in both the clinical pages, wellbeing pages and blogs are kept free from commercial interests and pressures. Their information reflects reliable research evidence, recognised UK and European medical guidelines and best clinical practice.

Health Websites without the quality standard

If you find sites which do not have the quality standards you need to check for reliability.

Who: Check in the 'about us' section to find out the author or publisher to see their credentials. What are their reasons for publishing (are they trying to sell something)? Do other websites link to them?

What: How accurate is the information? Is it linked to reliable evidence? Is the information up to date? Check the bottom of the page to see the date last updated. Do links work? Broken links can be a sign that the site is not monitored.

Where: What part of the world does the information come from? Statistics and treatment options might not be relevant to the UK.

The web address often indicates the type or the origin of the site.

For example:

.au = Australia.

.ca = Canada.

.de = Germany.

.in = India.

.cn = China.

.ac = Educational.

.gov.uk = UK Government site.

.com or .org = an organization (Commercial or Charity).

Stay Safe

NHS choices also has a section for how to stay safe and find reliable information.

<http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/digital-inclusion/Pages/be-safe-online.aspx>

<http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/digital-inclusion/Pages/get-online-take-control-of-your-health.aspx>

Further information

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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體、音頻、盲文、穆恩體 (Moon) 盲文和電子格式，敬請索取。

در صورت تمایل می‌توانید کلیه اطلاعات تصویب شده توسط اتحادیه در رابطه با بیماران را به اشکال مختلف در دسترس داشته باشید، از جمله به زبانهای دیگر، به زبان ساده، چاپ درشت، صوت، خط مخصوص گوران، مون و بصورت روی خطی موجود است.

زانیاری پیوندیدار بهو نمخوشانهی له لایمن تراستهوه پاسهند گراون، نهگمر داوا بکریت له فورماتمکاتی تردا بریتی له زامتهکاتی تر، نیز ی رید (هاسان خویندندهوه)، چایی گهوره، شریتی دهنگ، هیللی موون و نمیکتر و نیکی هیه.

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Dhammaan warbixinta bukaanleyda ee Ururka ee la oggol yahay waxaa marka la codsado lagu heli karaa nuskhado kale, sida luqado kale, akhris fudud, far waaweyn, dhegeysi, farta braille ee dadka indhaha la', Moon iyo nidaam eletaroonig ah.