

<http://www.epocrates.com/products/rx/>

ePocrates Rx: a free resource to help with prescriptions

Doctors frequently have doubts when they prescribe drugs: regarding contraindications, side effects, and safety in pregnant and lactating women. With ePocrates Rx it is possible to answer these questions in a quick, reliable and free way. When using a PDA (Palm or Pocket PC) or any other computer connected to the Internet, complete and regularly updated information about more than 3,300 drugs is available including information on indications, doses for adults and children, dose corrections for kidney or liver function impairment, important and frequent adverse reactions, drug interactions, black box warnings, information about safety in pregnancy and lactation, pharmacology and user notes.

A very useful tool in ePocrates is MultiCheck, an application designed to detect possible drug interactions among several substances (up to 30) selected by the user. Other useful tools included are MedMath (to calculate pediatric doses, creatinine clearance, body mass index, LDL cholesterol and others) and Meditools (to establish equivalent opioid analgesic or corticosteroid doses).

With all this time-saving potential in daily clinical practice, ePocrates Rx is a worthwhile resource to explore!



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

Merck Medicus: a basket of free resources

After a free subscription to this site, the users of Merck Medicus can access several useful clinical resources, some downloadable to PDA (Palm or Pocket PC) and frequently updated:

- *The Merck Manual, Professional Edition*: the well-known Merck Manual covers several areas, like Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Gynecology, Obstetrics, Dermatology and many others;
- *Pocket Guide to Diagnostic Tests*: offers quick, evidence-based information on the selection and interpretation of over 350 diagnostic tests- lab, imaging and microbiology;
- *Harrison's Practice- Answers on Demand*: the most recent acquisition of *Mobile MerckMedicus* is an adaptation of *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine* to an easy-to-read format, providing practical and concise answers to daily clinical questions;

Others: *Reuters Medical News*, *RSS News Feeds*, *Medline Journal Abstracts* (with the possibility of choosing journals or an area of interest), *MerckMedicus and MEDLINE Search* (MEDLINE searches "ordered" by PDA and performed when the device is connected to Internet).

Online, the site offers access to textbooks, like Cecil Textbook of Medicine and Harrison's Online, continuing medical education programs, patient information, and a page configured to areas of interest of the reader, with the most suitable resources available in that specialty.

This site can be very useful to the Family Physician, either for obtaining answers during consultations (via Internet or PDA), or for continuous medical education.

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<http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home.html>

At least four options with a single click

The website of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) has plenty of information freely available and quickly accessible with a simple and pleasant interface. On this site we can easily perform a quick search for information using either selected expressions or browsing through the entire content of the journals published by the AAFP, namely: *AAFP News Now (ANN)*; *American Family Physician (AFP)*; *Family Practice Management (FPM)* and *Annals of Family Medicine*.

In addition to these journals, it is possible to access information on clinical subjects, research and family medicine including guidelines, clinical recommendations and opinion articles from other AAFP publications.

There is also a link to the website www.familydoctor.org containing clinical information addressed to the general public, which can also be useful for physicians preparing information for their patients (flyers, brochures, etc.). There is an additional item with special interest for residents and medical students.



<http://www.cfpc.ca>

Tools for continuing medical education

The website of the College of Family Physicians of Canada is very well-organised presenting several features, allowing a rapid information search for information and a link to the monthly journal *The Canadian Family Physician*.

The journal allows free access to its contents which include diverse themes that are of interest to family medicine. On this website, special note should be taken of links to clinical guidelines, and

links to websites of other medical specialties also providing access to their own guidelines. There are also links to EBM websites like *Trip Database*; *Evidence-Based Health Care Practice* of Université de Laval.

On the home page there is access to an item named "Education", of special interest to residents and trainers because of its useful educational tools (clinical stories, training objectives, etc.).

As an additional benefit the website is bilingual in French and English.

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Originally published in *Rev Port Clin Geral* 2007;23:488