



## 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, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, Clinical Modification)
- ICD-10-CM (International Classification of Disease, 10<sup>th</sup> edition, Clinical Modification)
- SNOMED CT<sup>®</sup> (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<sup>®</sup> (Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes)

## Who can implement MedlinePlus Connect?

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

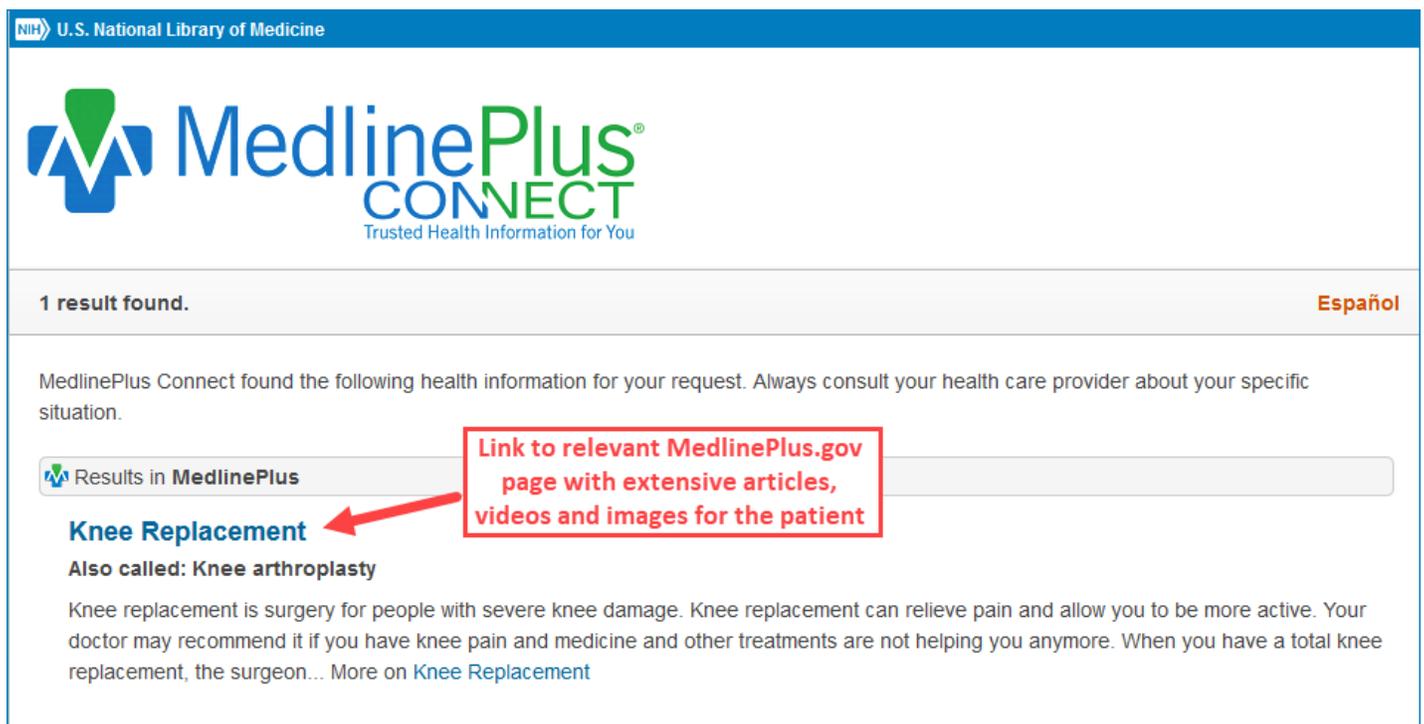
- Health IT, EHR or patient portal vendors who offer MedlinePlus Connect as a feature to their clients.
- Health IT, EHR or patient portal purchasers and coordinators for hospitals, clinics, provider offices, or other facilities. They may be able to implement MedlinePlus Connect directly depending on 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 shows the MedlinePlus Connect interface. At the top, it says "U.S. National Library of Medicine". Below that is the MedlinePlus Connect logo with the tagline "Trusted Health Information for You". A search bar contains the text "Results in MedlinePlus". Below the search bar, the results for "Knee Replacement" are displayed. A red box highlights the search result with the text "Link to relevant MedlinePlus.gov page with extensive articles, videos and images for the patient". The result text includes "Knee Replacement", "Also called: Knee arthroplasty", and a paragraph describing the surgery, followed by a link "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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U.S. National Library of Medicine