



# Best Educational E-Practices (BEEP)

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Number 21

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June 1, 2002

## Online Support for Medical Education: A Best Educational E-Practice

*“Medical school is the start of a lifelong learning endeavor.  
Increasingly computer- and web-based resources will facilitate this process...  
The effect, if well managed, can be revolutionary.”*

(Dennis Paul Valenzeno et al, [“Lifelong Learning with Digital Compendia,”](#)  
*Medical Education Online* 5, 2000. )

For a national model in educational e-support, look no further than the field of medical education. Although the capability of becoming a physician through online coursework only is not yet a reality, Web-based support in the field is arguably the best of that in any subject area. This issue contains a collection of Web sites that reflect both the diversity and depth of materials available for medical e-learners throughout their careers.

### Academic Medical Education Programs with Significant E-Components

- [Lumen](#). An extensive effort to network medical education on the Web by Loyola University (IL). Its goals include curricular content integration, access to information worldwide, and encouragement of the development of computer-aided instruction.
- [Medical Education Server](#). The University of Florida’s comprehensive online service for those involved in medical education at all levels, from first year to continuing medical education.
- [Medical Schools in the U. S. and Canada](#). Quick links provided by the Association of American Medical Colleges.
- [SuccessTypes Medical Education Page](#). A Web site maintained by the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center to complement medical students’ coursework by fostering academic success through a philosophy of personal development.
- [“Surgical Training Goes Online.”](#) Article by Sara Crowe in *The University of Sydney News*, June 1, 2000, describing a breakthrough online program for University of Sydney surgical trainees overseen by the Australian Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.
- [“Telemedicine Effort Gets Prestigious National Award.”](#) A report in the *Tucson Citizen*, May 4, 2002, about an online program - offered by three Arizona universities - that has provided almost 9500 credit hours to rural health care professionals.

### Continuing Medical Education E-Sources (CMEs)

- [CME Unlimited](#). A non-profit division of Audio-Digest Foundation that offers physicians tapes recorded at workshops from medical conferences worldwide.
- [CME Web: The Global Continuing Medical Education Resource](#). A commercial Web site that can provide more than 1400 credit hours in 21 specialty areas.
- [Continuing Medical Education for Physicians and Other Health Professionals](#). Harvard University’s (MA) collection of more than 200 courses that have been taken by more than 47,000 professionals in 70 countries.
- [Electronic CME: Online and Software Resources](#). A unique listing by specialty of continuing medical education opportunities available either online or via various media.
- [Online Continuing Education Courses](#). Online continuing education courses specifically designed for Florida medical and other health-related professionals by the Florida Medical Educational Services.
- [Online CME Sites](#). An annotated list maintained by Bernard Sklar, MD, with links to more than 200 CME sites offering more than 12,000 courses. Also links to a similar list for Canadians.

## Diverse Sources for Medical E-Learners

- [American Medical Student Association](#). Multi-purpose Web site for medical students maintained by the country's largest medical student association.
- [HON Code of Conduct for Medical and Health Web Sites](#). Web site maintained by the Health on the Net Foundation that reviews medical and health Web sites for reliability.
- [Web Path: Internet Pathology Laboratory for Medical Education](#). Exemplary Web site of e-support available in a particular subject area - pathology - that includes images, text, tutorials, and examination items. Maintained by Edward C. Klatt, MD, Florida State University.
- [Martindale's Health Science Guide](#). Remarkable, award-winning, collection of e-sources created by Jim Martindale and maintained at the University of California, Irvine. Includes more than 132,000 medical cases, 61,000 teaching files, 1250 courses/textbooks, 1600 tutorials, 420 journals, 4180 databases, and 1000 movies.
- [MedConnect: An Online Resource for Medical Professionals](#). Excellent source of health news and developments for students and practicing physicians.
- [Medslides](#). An award-winning Web site that offers free medical information of all kinds in slide format to medical professionals.
- ["Short Take: Mobile Med."](#) Article by Charles Clauson in *Stanford Medicine* 18 (2), Fall 2001, on the trend to provide medical students with handheld PDA-type devices as part of their education.
- [Student Doctor Network](#). A volunteer resource with the goal of telling "the real story about medical and dental school" and supporting students in those programs. Includes student diaries, an interactive student lounge, a section for spouses, and much more.
- [Telemedicine Information Exchange](#). Extensive, international source supported by the National Library of Medicine on the use of telecommunications and technology to provide medical services at a distance. Includes links to articles, existing programs, meetings, training and more.
- [Virtual Hospital](#). Vast digital health sciences library created at the University of Iowa, designed for medical professionals and patients. One example of many excellent Web sites of its kind.

## Medical Education E-Books and E-Journals

- [Amedeo.com: The Medical Literature Guide](#). Extensive, impressive and searchable collection of links to free online information arranged by topic. Has recently started a similar service for e-books called [FreeBooks4Doctors.com](#), which presently links to more than 500 titles.
- [Combined Health Information Database \(CHID\)](#). A searchable database of material produced by federal health-related agencies, many not indexed anywhere else.
- [FreeMedicalJournals.com](#). Growing collection of links (now more than 900) to journals that offer free full-text access at any given moment.
- [MedicalStudent.com](#). A digital library of authoritative medical information for all students of medicine curated by Michael D'Alessandro, MD. Links to textbooks, journals, exams and more.
- [Medical Student JAMA Online](#). Free online periodical by the American Medical Association. The British Medical Association publishes a similar online student journal, [Student BMJ](#).
- [MEDWEB](#). Sprawling catalog of biomedical/health science links by Emory University (GA).
- [PubMed](#). Database maintained by the National Library of Medicine that provides access to more than 11 million medical citations, some linking directly to Web sites providing full-text articles.
- [TimeLit](#). Links to more than 50,000 items on the subject of medical education collected by R. M. Harden, Centre for Medical Education at Dundee, Scotland and maintained by Neil McManus.

## Career Planning E-Sources

- [Careers in Medicine](#). An online career planning program for choosing a medical specialty and selecting/applying to a residency program.
- [Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates \(ECFMG\)](#). A Web site dealing with the career planning challenges for foreign medical graduates wanting to practice in the U. S.
- [Tomorrowsdoctors.org](#). Site maintained by the Association of American Medical Colleges that offers extensive advice to medical students and those considering the profession.
- [US Medical Licensing Examination](#) and [Princeton Review's USMLE Discussion Board](#). Two sources of information/assistance for medical students preparing for the medical licensing exam.
- [Way Cool Surgery](#). A K-12 Web site that introduces young people to careers in medicine.