

## WWW GUIDE

# Clinical trials on the Web

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This month we have looked into WWW net-sites for resources pertaining to the topic of "clinical trials." We searched through well over 1000 documents to get a sense of the kind of information that is currently being

distributed on the net. Based on this sampling, we have grouped WWW information about clinical trials into four categories.

First, there is general background content aimed at interested health-care providers and patients. These sites tend to cover topics concerning a generic clinical trial and include discussions of who might be interested in participating. Next, there are detailed protocols on specific trials and eligibility. We found over one hundred of these, mainly from individual academic institutions and from the US government.

Unfortunately, there is no "master" list of these trials, so finding a trial covering any one particular disease is still a hit or miss process using a search engine. We also found plenty of sites dealing with products and services for conducting and analyzing clinical trials. These sites range from contract research organizations that will perform virtually all aspects of a clinical trial to companies that sell the supplies or software used in trials. Finally, we found some sites that deal with the regulatory issues of testing new pharmaceuticals.

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## A sampler of clinical trials products and services sites

Clinical trials information	<a href="gopher://gopher.nih.gov:70/00/clin/cancernet/pdqinfo/other/Clinical%20trials%20information%20for%20patients">gopher://gopher.nih.gov:70/00/clin/cancernet/pdqinfo/other/Clinical%20trials%20information%20for%20patients</a>	An excellent description for patients of what a clinical trial is (from the Physicians Data Query computer file).
Pharmatech Inc.	<a href="http://www.pharmatech.com/ind.html">http://www.pharmatech.com/ind.html</a>	On-line general information about clinical trials for specific diseases. A good patient reference.
The online journal of current clinical trials	<a href="http://www.thomson.com/chaphall/cct.html">http://www.thomson.com/chaphall/cct.html</a>	A journal devoted to discussion of all aspects of clinical trials, from cost analysis to randomization issues (server is not reliable).
HINET—medical device product development	<a href="http://www.hinetbc.org/information/hinetpd.htm">http://www.hinetbc.org/information/hinetpd.htm</a>	Interesting discussion of the issues involved in developing a medical device for clinical use.
Clinical trials in cardiology	<a href="http://www2.umdnl.edu/~shindler/trials.html">http://www2.umdnl.edu/~shindler/trials.html</a>	A list of the abbreviations and their meaning, as used in cardiology clinical trials.
AIDS clinical trials information service	<a href="http://www.actis.org">http://www.actis.org</a>	Collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control (Atlanta, GA), National Institutes of Health (Rockville, MD), US Food and Drug Administration (Rockville, MD), and the National Library of Medicine (Bethesda, MD) to link AIDS clinical trials and drug information.
CenterWatch clinical trials listing service	<a href="http://www.centerwatch.com/MAIN.HTM">http://www.centerwatch.com/MAIN.HTM</a>	A general listing of US clinical trials and a patient notification service.
Profiles of centers conducting clinical research	<a href="http://www.centerwatch.com/PROFLIST.HTM">http://www.centerwatch.com/PROFLIST.HTM</a>	Listing of centers conducting major clinical trials in the country divided by diseases. Limited to those who have provided CenterWatch with their data.
Welcome to sterling clinical resources!	<a href="http://www.clinical-trials.com/">http://www.clinical-trials.com/</a>	Contains a rather abbreviated list of clinical trials for various diseases.
Information about selected ongoing clinical trials	<a href="http://imsdd.meb.uni-bonn.de/cancernet/trials.toc.html">http://imsdd.meb.uni-bonn.de/cancernet/trials.toc.html</a>	A selection of clinical trials funded by the National Cancer Institute (Bethesda, MD).
Clinical research trials	<a href="http://www.telemedical.com/Telemedical/crt.html">http://www.telemedical.com/Telemedical/crt.html</a>	A small collection of well-organized clinical trials.
BioSpace	<a href="http://www.biospace.com/g/synd/_b8baae36/exhib_script/market/Contract_Research_Organizations.html">http://www.biospace.com/g/synd/_b8baae36/exhib_script/market/Contract_Research_Organizations.html</a>	A partial listing of contract research organizations.
Research testing labs—our services	<a href="http://www.rtlab.com/services.html">http://www.rtlab.com/services.html</a>	A private company that specializes in conducting clinical trials.
Clintrial product description	<a href="http://www-spd.bbn.com:80/prodsserv/Clintrial.html">http://www-spd.bbn.com:80/prodsserv/Clintrial.html</a>	A clinical trial software company home page.
FDA home page	<a href="http://www.fda.gov/fdahomepage.html">http://www.fda.gov/fdahomepage.html</a>	A key reference for regulatory issues on clinical trials.
ICH home page	<a href="http://www.mcc.ac.uk/pwmirror/pw9/ifpma/pharmwebich1.html">http://www.mcc.ac.uk/pwmirror/pw9/ifpma/pharmwebich1.html</a>	The International Conference on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH), a unique project that brings together the regulatory authorities of Europe, Japan, and the United States, and experts from the pharmaceutical industry. You will need Adobe Acrobat to download these files.