

“Though interest in nursing careers is strong, access to professional nursing education is becoming more difficult.”

Registered nurses are in great demand, and the nursing shortage is well known. Educators are overwhelmed and nursing students are the ones that suffer. Fortunately, medical websites can help in this crisis.

“The educators who prepare, train and graduate skilled individuals into an industry clamoring for nursing professionals understand the perilous labor shortage and are sensitive to the urgency of the problem. They know the looming predictions that anticipate one million nurse vacancies nationwide by the end of the decade. They also know that they only can do so much.”¹

According to American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), “The primary barriers to accepting all qualified students at nursing colleges and universities continue to be insufficient faculty, clinical placement sites, and classroom space. Though interest in nursing careers is strong, access to professional nursing education is becoming more difficult.”²

¹ O'meara, Sean. "The Perfect Storm: as the Latest Wave of Education Cuts Hit, Academic Leaders Navigate the Need to Produce More Graduates with Less." *Nurses World* 1 July 2004. 23 Jan. 2008

<<http://www.nursesworldmag.com/articles-on-nursing/care.cfm/id/46.html>>.

² <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/media/newsreleases/2005/enr105.htm>

The Internet has changed the way we educate people.

RN programs include training on how to assess a patient's medical condition, recognize and record symptoms, provide medications, start an IV, work in conjunction with a doctor, and a variety of activities designed to enable nursing students to provide quality care to patients. Of course medical websites cannot replace real world nursing experience in a clinic or a hospital, but they can be valuable tools for nursing students.

The Internet has changed the way we educate people. With new tools the Internet provides, more and more teachers in all fields of study are incorporating this new technology into their curriculum.

Technology in education may well enhance the profession's ability to educate nurses.

“The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) recognizes that technological advances are increasing opportunities to improve dramatically the quality of and access to nursing education. Further, technology affords increased collaboration among nursing faculties in teaching, practice, and research. Careful use of technology in education may well enhance the profession's ability to educate nurses for practice, prepare future nurse educators, and advance nursing science in an era when the number of professional nurses, qualified nurse faculty and nurse researchers is well below national need.”³

³ "Distance Technology in Nursing Education." American Association of Colleges of Nursing. July 1999. 24 Jan. 2008
<<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Publications/WhitePapers/whitepaper.htm>>.

Benefits of Medical Websites:

- **Current information:** Information and health-related news are updated frequently on medical websites, whereas you may have a long wait for new, updated medical publications to become available.
- **Cost:** Most medical websites don't charge you anything to access their services. This eliminates the need to purchase expensive medical books and journals.
- **Convenience:** Get all of the information you need in one spot. You don't need to wait for tomorrow class, next week's lecture, next month's seminar, or your teacher to respond to your e-mail. All the information you need is at your fingertips.



Why *WebMD*?

WebMD offers more information on a broader range of topics, more health experts, and more interactive tools for nursing students than any other medical website.

“The *WebMD* content staff blends award-winning expertise in journalism, content creation, community services, expert commentary, and medical review to give users a variety of ways to find what they are looking for. *WebMD* employs board-certified physicians, individuals who hold advanced degrees in journalism, medical illustration, health communications, clinical informatics, nursing, and medicine.”⁴

WebMD's dedicated, full-time staff creates and maintains up-to-date medical reference databases. Medical imagery, graphics, and interactive tools make crucial health information easier to digest.

⁴ "What We Do for Our Users." *WebMD*. 25 Jan. 2008. 25 Jan. 2008 <<http://www.webmd.com/policies/about-what-we-do-for-our-users>>.

WebMD allows you to search by a drug's brand name, generic name, or by

Ever had one of those “off” days? The name of the drug is on the tip of your tongue. You know it's used to lower cholesterol and you know it starts with a “C” but you can't remember the name. Fear not—**WebMD** has you covered.

In addition to the extensive A-Z directory of prescription and over-the-counter medications, **WebMD** allows you to search by a drug's brand name, generic name, or by the condition it treats.



Bingo! Within seconds you have found what you were looking for—Crestor Oral! **WebMD** provides all sorts of helpful information such as warnings, uses, side effects, precautions, interactions, overdose, images of what the pills look like, related links, and reviews of the drug.

WARNINGS

USES

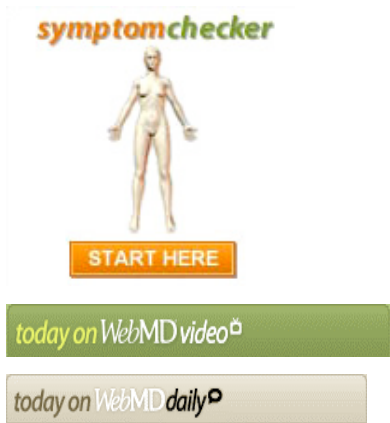
SIDE EFFECTS

PRECAUTIONS

INTERACTIONS

OVERDOSE

When searching by condition, **WebMD** even classifies which medications are FDA approved and which are occasionally used to treat but are not FDA approved for the treatment of specific conditions.



WebMD newsletter

Other WebMD Features:

- **Interactive symptom checker:** Choose between Male and Female so you don't need to waste time sifting through search results that don't pertain to you.
- **Videos:** Updated daily to better serve you.
- **Newsletters:** Have important information on a variety of health topics e-mailed directly to you.
- **Blogs:** Interact with online communities.
- **Message boards:** Contribute in a new way.



WebMD is an accredited health website devoted to providing users credible information from a variety of sources.



WebMD, Inc. is a certified licensee of the TRUSTe® Privacy Seal Program. TRUSTe has reviewed the privacy statement and practices of www.webmd.com for compliance with strict program requirements.

Awards and Recognition

Here are a few of the awards [WebMD](#) received in 2007:

Webby Awards

- People's Voice Winner, Health category.

The Society of Professional Journalists:

- First Place in the category Deadline Reporting for the [WebMD](#) news story "[CDC: Everyone to get HIV Test.](#)"

National Association of Black Journalists Awards

- Best New Media Commentary for the [WebMD](#) blog [Tanzania Travels](#), written by [WebMD](#) editor Cherie Berkley.

TIME.com's 25 Sites We Can't Live Without

- [WebMD](#) named among the most [indispensable web sites](#).

Forbes Best of the Web

- [WebMD](#) named among the top health information sites in 2007.

Consumer Reports WebWatch

- [WebMD](#) named among the top health information sites in 2007.

PC Magazine's Top 100 Classic Web Sites

- [WebMD](#) named one of the best [Science and Nature sites](#).

WebWare 100 Awards

- [WebMD](#) named one of the top reference web sites.⁵

⁵ "WebMD Awards and Recognition." [WebMD](#). 25 Jan. 2008. 25 Jan. 2008 <<http://www.webmd.com/policies/awards>>.

WebMD offers nursing students free access to credible, in-depth medical news, reference material, health experts, interactive tools, online community programs, and so much more.

For more information visit: <http://www.webmd.com/>



Written By Beth Goers