

Directory of Low Back Pain Links and Related Websites



This directory is an abbreviated list of voluntary associations and private organizations that provide low back pain management information and resources.

These organizations and related websites offer educational material and support to people who experience low back pain and to the general public. Other sites are specific to health care professionals.

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TABLE of CONTENTS

Website	Page
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	4
American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons	4
American Academy of Pain Management	4
American Chiropractic Association	4
American Chronic Pain Association	4
American College of Sports Medicine	4
American Pain Foundation	5
American Pain Society	5
American Society of Pain Management Nurses	5
Arthritis Foundation	5
Cleveland Clinic – Sports Health and Rehabilitation Program	5
Institute for Health Care Improvement	5
International Association for the Study of Pain	5
MEDLINEplus	6
Medscape	6
National Foundation for the Treatment of Pain	6
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases	6
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke NIH Neurological Institute	6
North American Spine Society	6

Low Back Pain Guideline Web Links and Related Websites

The Center of Excellence for Medical Multimedia	6
The Joint Commission	7
U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine	7
U.S. Army Medical Command, Quality Management Directorate	7
U.S. Department of Defense PharmacoEconomic Center	7
Veterans' Health Affairs, Office of Quality and Performance	7

Low Back Pain Websites and Related Information

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

<http://www.ahrq.gov> The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) mission is to improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans. Information from AHRQ's research helps people make more informed decisions and improve the quality of health care services.

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

<http://www.aaos.org> The Academy is the preeminent provider of musculoskeletal education to orthopaedic surgeons and others in the world. Its continuing medical education activities include multiple CME courses held around the country and at the Orthopaedic Learning Center, and various medical and scientific publications and electronic media materials.

American Academy of Pain Management

<http://www.aapainmanage.org> The American Academy of Pain Management is a non-profit organization that educates clinicians about pain and its management through an integrative interdisciplinary approach. The Academy provides an environment for clinicians from a variety of healthcare disciplines to network and share knowledge for optimal patient care.

American Chiropractic Association

<http://www.amerchiro.org> The American Chiropractic Association (ACA), is the largest professional association in the world representing doctors of chiropractic. The ACA provides lobbying, public relations, professional and educational opportunities for doctors of chiropractic, funds research regarding chiropractic and health issues, and offers leadership for the advancement of the profession. The ACA promotes the highest standards of ethics and patient care, contributing to the health and well-being of millions of chiropractic patients.

American Chronic Pain Association

<http://www.theacpa.org> Facilitate peer support and education for individuals with chronic pain and their families so that these individuals may live more fully in spite of their pain. Raise awareness among the health care community, policy makers, and the public at large about issues of living with chronic pain.

American College of Sports Medicine

<http://www.acsm.org> The American College of Sports Medicine promotes and integrates scientific research, education, and practical applications of sports medicine and exercise science to maintain and enhance physical performance, fitness, health, and quality of life.

American Pain Foundation

<http://www.painfoundation.org> The American Pain Foundation mission is to improve the quality of life of people with pain by raising public awareness, providing practical information, promoting research, and advocating to remove barriers and increase access to effective pain management.

American Pain Society

<http://www.ampainsoc.org> The American Pain Society is a multidisciplinary community that brings together a diverse group of scientists, clinicians and other professionals to increase the knowledge of pain and transform public policy and clinical practice to reduce pain-related suffering. Has published seven guidelines related to pain.

American Society of Pain Management Nurses

<http://www.aspmn.org> The American Society for Pain Management Nursing's mission is to advance and promote optimal nursing care for people affected by pain by promoting best nursing practice. This is accomplished through education, standards, advocacy, and research.

Arthritis Foundation

<http://www.arthritis.org> The Arthritis Foundation is the only national not-for-profit organization that supports the more than 100 types of arthritis and related conditions. The foundation helps people take control of arthritis by providing public health education; pursuing public policy and legislation; and conducting evidence-based programs to improve the quality of life for those living with arthritis. The Arthritis Foundation offers information and tools to help people live a better life with arthritis.

Cleveland Clinic – Sports Health and Rehabilitation Program

<http://www.sports-health.org> Cleveland Clinic is a not-for-profit, multi-specialty academic medical center that integrates clinical and hospital care with research and education. Cleveland Clinic has a vision of providing outstanding patient care based upon the principles of cooperation, compassion and innovation.

Institute for Health Care Improvement

<http://www.ihl.org/ihl> The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) is an independent not-for-profit organization helping to lead the improvement of health care throughout the world. IHI works to accelerate improvement by building the will for change, cultivating promising concepts for improving patient care, and helping health care systems put those ideas into action.

International Association for the Study of Pain

<http://www.iasp-pain.org> The International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) is the leading professional forum for science, practice, and education in the field of pain. IASP is open to all professionals involved in research, diagnosis or treatment of pain.

MEDLINEplus

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus> A goldmine of good health information from the world's largest medical library, the National Library of Medicine. Health professionals and consumers alike can depend on it for information that is authoritative and up to date. MedlinePlus has extensive information from the National Institutes of Health and other trusted sources on over 800 diseases and conditions. There are directories, a medical encyclopedia and a medical dictionary, easy-to-understand tutorials on common conditions, tests, and treatments, health information in Spanish, extensive information on prescription and nonprescription drugs, health information from the media, and links to thousands of clinical trials. MedlinePlus is updated daily.

Medscape

<http://www.medscape.com> Provide clinicians and other healthcare professionals with the most timely comprehensive and relevant clinical information to improve patient care;

National Foundation for the Treatment of Pain

<http://www.paincare.org> The National Foundation for the Treatment of Pain is a not for profit organization, which seeks to accomplish comprehensive and effective medical treatment and social justice for all who are involved with legitimate medical pain.

National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases

<http://www.niams.nih.gov> The mission of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases is to support research into the causes, treatment, and prevention of arthritis and musculoskeletal and skin diseases, the training of basic and clinical scientists to carry out this research, and the dissemination of information on research progress in these diseases.

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)

NIH Neurological Institute

<http://www.ninds.nih.gov> The mission of NINDS is to reduce the burden of neurological disease - a burden borne by every age group, by every segment of society, by people all over the world. Has patient links and information on low back pain.

North American Spine Society (NASS)

<http://www.spine.org> NASS is a multidisciplinary medical organization dedicated to fostering the highest quality, evidence-based, and ethical spine care by promoting education, research, and advocacy. NASS is comprised of several disciplines including orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, physiatry, neurology, radiology, anesthesiology, research, physical therapy and other spine care professionals.

The Center of Excellence for Medical Multimedia (CEMM)

<http://www.cemm.org> The CEMM is a dynamic initiative from the Office of the Surgeon General aimed at supplying the most powerful interactive technologies available to Medical Treatment Facilities (MTF), Health and Wellness Centers (HAWC), and TRICARE civilian medical facilities. The CEMM is destined to become a nationally recognized leader in patient-related interactive multimedia. It's innovative structure and

Low Back Pain Guideline Web Links and Related Websites

sophisticated production outsourcing strategies position it perfectly for rapid response to the ever-changing needs of patients.

The Joint Commission

<http://www.jointcommission.org> To continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value.

U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (USACHPPM)

<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil> The USACHPPM is a linchpin of medical support to combat forces and of the military managed-care system. It provides worldwide scientific expertise and services in clinical and field preventive medicine, environmental and occupational health, health promotion and wellness, epidemiology and disease surveillance, toxicology, and related laboratory sciences. It supports readiness by keeping Soldiers fit to fight, while also promoting wellness among their families and the federal civilian workforce. Professional disciplines represented include chemists, physicists, engineers, physicians, optometrists, epidemiologists, audiologists, nurses, industrial hygienists, toxicologists, entomologists, and many others as well as sub-specialties within these professions.

U.S. Army Medical Command, Quality Management Division

<https://www.gmo.amedd.army.mil> This is a Department of Defense site with information on all Veterans Affairs/Department of Defense (VA/DoD) Clinical Practice Guidelines and other quality management initiatives in the Army Medical Department. Also has re-ordering information on clinical practice guideline tool kits. Lists Air Force, Navy and VA POC's for tool kit orders.

U.S. Department of Defense PharmacoEconomic Center

<http://www.pec.ha.osd.mil> The Department of Defense PharmacoEconomic Center (PEC) is a customer oriented Center of Excellence implementing recognized state of the art pharmacoeconomic analysis for the purpose of improving readiness by increasing value, quality, and access to medical care and pharmacotherapy within the available resources of the Military Health System. The PEC works with the VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guideline Workgroup to formulate the drug therapy components of clinical practice guidelines.

Veterans' Health Affairs, Office of Quality and Performance

<http://www.healthquality.va.gov> Clinical practice guidelines are increasingly being used in health care to improve patient care and as a potential solution to reduce inappropriate variations in care. Guidelines should be evidence-based as well as based upon explicit criteria to ensure consensus regarding their internal validity. The use of guidelines must always be in the context of a health care provider's clinical judgment in the care of a particular patient. For that reason, the guidelines may be viewed as an educational tool to provide information and assist decision making.