HealthLink BC Information and Resources

Useful to Medical Office Assistants and their Patients

In addition to 8-1-1 telephone health services, HealthLink BC provides the BC HealthGuide handbook in four languages and a wide range of online self-care and navigation resources. This information sheet provides an overview of these resources. Links are provided to assist Medical Office Assistants in orienting themselves the website or referring patients to online information.

Starting on the HealthLink BC homepage (http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/kbaltindex.asp) you can navigate an encyclopedia of health information and a medication library (LEARN); a self-serve symptom checker (CHECK); and a database of BC health services and resources (FIND).

LEARN about Health Topics and Medications:

Enter on the homepage or click on LEARN about Health Topics in the top navigation bar anywhere in the website to search an encyclopedia of over 4000 routinely updated, medically approved health topics, tests, procedures and other resources.

Enter on the homepage or click on LEARN about Medications in the top navigation bar anywhere in the website to search a comprehensive database of information on over-the-counter and prescription drugs.

CHECK your Symptoms:

Enter on the homepage or click on CHECK your Symptoms in the top navigation bar anywhere in the website for an interactive tool that helps patients understand their symptoms and make decisions about when to seek medical care and appropriate home treatment options. The Check your Symptoms protocols (over 150) are integrated with information in 'Learn about Health Topics', and these are consistent with information in the BC HealthGuide handbook.

FIND Health Services and Resources:

Enter on the homepage or click on FIND Services and Resources in the top navigation bar anywhere in the website to search for health services and resources by community. This database includes over 2500 health services and resources in BC, location (mapping function) and contact information.

H1N1 Information and Symptom Checker:

Up to date H1N1 flu virus information, including a new Check Your Symptoms tool and links to help find a physician or closest walk-in clinic are available at http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/h1n1.asp. When flu shots become available, information on where obtain a flu shot will also be offered.

Health Tools:

The HealthLink BC website offers a number of Interactive Health Tools (help measure, manage and improve health), Action Sets (help learn and practice better ways to manage health) and Decision Points (help make informed decisions when facing an important medical decision or other choice that affects health). Descriptions and links are available at http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthtools.stm.

HealthLink BC Files:

HealthLink BC Files (formally called BC HealthFiles) are a series of easy-to-understand fact sheets about a wide range of public health and safety topics. They are useful references for the public and BC health service providers.

A number of HealthLink BC File topics have been translated into other languages, including Chinese, Farsi, French, Punjabi, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Go to http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/index.stm for:

- A complete list of HealthLink BC Files
- Ability to search by topic, category, series and language
- Our email subscription service for individuals who would like to receive a message when HealthLink BC Files are added or updated

BC HealthGuide Handbook:

The BC HealthGuide handbook is an easy to use self-care reference for your patients to use at home. This free 400+ page handbook covers over 200 health topics and includes information on how to recognize and manage common health concerns, tips on home treatment, care options, and when to see a doctor.

English BC HealthGuides are available at a local pharmacy or Government Agent's Office.

Chinese or Punjabi handbooks are available at many community or multicultural organizations, temples or English Language Services for Adults providers.

French handbooks are available through your local francophone organization.

You will find information on how to order copies of the BC HealthGuide for your office at http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthguide.stm. This link also offers translated information about the BC HealthGuide handbook in French, Chinese and Punjabi.