A practical guide for searching the NHS website
(formerly known as NHS Choices)

http://www.nhs.uk

Quality evidence-based information designed and supported by the NHS for members of the public. Developed and maintained by NHS Digital on behalf of NHS England.

The NHS website contains:
1. Information about health and social care.
2. Health and social care services, including interactions such as booking appointments.
3. Guidance about major health events.
4. Help with changing behaviour to improve health or care.
5. Decision support.
6. Facilities feedback.
7. Guidance to specialist information, advice and support from other sources.
8. Rights and how to complain.
9. Factual explanations of topical or newsworthy health issues.
Exploring the NHS website
There are five drop-down menus on the main banner. Think about specific information that might be of interest to you.

If you can't find what you're after, try the search box at the top right of the page – it covers everything on the NHS website, including information on conditions and treatments, and advice to help you live a healthier lifestyle or boost your mental wellbeing.
Healthy living
Advice, tips and tools on making choices about your health – includes lose weight, eat well, manage stress and exercise

Topical campaigns

Latest from the NHS
News, events, information and advice

Recently added apps

Be clear on cancer
Information on specific health problems

Links to organ and blood registrations
Specific registrations for donation

Links to information about NHS in general and the NHS website
Links to policy information, NHS sites, other language sites (Accessibility) and contact details

Health apps
Digital tools to help manage and improve your health – includes link to NHS apps library
Searching the five drop down menus on main banner

Health A-Z
Contains information on conditions, treatment options, vaccinations (jabs) and answers to common health questions.

Services near you
What the NHS offers e.g. hip replacement, the services explained and choosing the right one for you. You are able to compare services such as consultants and GPs.

Live Well
A wealth of information that includes Couch to 5K, Alcohol support, NHS weight loss guide and moodzone - includes videos, tips, guidance and on-line support.

Social care and support
If you or someone you know needs help with day-to-day living because of illness or disability, this explains your options and where you can get support.

Health News
The research behind the headline news. Studies and reports explained in plain language. Includes categories and headline searching.

Health A-Z
A to Z of health information.

Live Well
Advice, tools and tips to help you make the best choices about your health and wellbeing.

Social care and support guide
If you or someone you know needs help with day-to-day living because of illness or disability, this explains your options and where you can get support.

Behind the Headlines
Your guide to the science that makes the news.

Find services
You can search all of our service directories here. Try searching by service name, service type, condition or surgical procedure.

Health Education England

Library and Knowledge Services
Frequently Ask Questions

• How do I search for information on a health issue e.g.: hair loss?

On the NHS website home page you can click the option for "Go to the Health A-Z". From there you can search for any health issue, based on the first few letters.

• How do I find out about healthy living and how I can get help to exercise?

On the NHS website home page you can click the option for "Live Well". From there, choose "Exercise". There is information and links on a range of exercise options.

• Are there interactive tools and apps to help me look after my own health?

Yes. Scroll down the NHS website home page to the section "Health apps" where you can find recently added apps. There is a link to the NHS apps library, where you can search for apps.

• How do I find information about social care services and benefits?

On the NHS website home page click on "Care and support". This will take you to the Care and support home page where you can then navigate to separate topics on social care services and benefits.

• How do I find a local GP service? What other local services can I find?

On the NHS website home page click on “Services near you”. From there you can choose GP in “Find” and add your “Location”. You can also browse A-Z for services.

• How do I compare hospital and surgeon performance to see which I should try to go to?

Search for either hospitals or consultant by choosing the best option from "Services near you". You will then see information about the hospital or consultant and be able to compare one service with another.

• I have read a newspaper article about a health issue and I want to find more information about that topic?

On the home page main banner click “Health news”. This will take you to “Behind the headlines” which gives you the science behind many news articles. You can search by subject or recent headlines.

• How do I book an appointment?

To use online appointment booking, the first step is to set up online booking with your GP. There is information on how to do this in the section "Find out how to sign up for GP online services".

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