



**Hashtag:** A hash sign (#) in front of a word that is used on social media sites and apps to categorize information on a specific topic so that it is easily searchable.

**Search Bar:** A rectangular box, that sometimes contains a magnifying glass icon, on a website or search engine that allows you to type in text to search a particular topic.

**Search Term:** A word, term, or phrase that is typed into the search bar on a search engine or on a website to bring up online pages related to the word.

**Web Browser:** An application that allows you to view web pages on your computer—a gateway to the Internet. Examples of browsers include Google Chrome, Internet Explorer, and Safari, among others.

### Checking the Source of the Website

Website addresses ending in:

- **.gov, indicates that the site is owned by a United States government agency.** For example, cancer.gov is the National Cancer Institute's website.
- **.edu means that the site is run by an educational institution or academic research center.**
- **.org often means that a non-profit, like a disease advocacy organization, operates the website.** PowerfulPatients.org is the Patient Empowerment Network's website. However, not all sites ending in .org are non-profit organizations.
- **.com or .net indicates that the site is a commercial website,** which can market and sell products and may host ads.

Note: Some sites may be less reputable if they are opinion-based or marketing products. Be sure to talk to your doctor about what you've learned online.



Instagram



Facebook



X (formerly Twitter)



TikTok



Pinterest



YouTube

### Internet Search Tips

If you aren't finding the information you are looking for when using search terms, **try:**

- **Switching up the terms** or making them more specific.
- Evaluating the website source by **paying attention to how the website address ends.**
- **Using your best judgement and talking to your doctor**—as always—about what you've learned.

### Social Media Search Tips

- When using social media sites like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, you can **type keywords into the search bar.**
- **Search using a hashtag.** For example, if you are interested in learning about prostate cancer, you can search the hashtag #prostatecancer.
- Some of the information on social media is opinion-based and is likely related to someone else's unique experience. Always refer to your doctor about what might work best for you.

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