

STAR Watch

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Online Resources for Researching Medical Providers

by

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“Top Ten” List (in alphabetical order)

Administrators in Medicine: www.docboard.org

American Board of Medical Specialties: www.abms.org

American Dental Association: www.ada.org

American Medical Association: www.ama-assn.org

American Osteopathic Association: www.aoa.net

Federation of State Medical Boards: www.fsmb.org

Knowx.com: www.knowx.com (fee-based)

NYS Education Department, Office of the Professions: www.op.nysed.gov

NYS Department of Health, Professional Misconduct & Physician Discipline:

www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/opmc/main.htm

NYS Physician Profile: www.nydoctorprofile.com

For General Information...

For basic biographical information, start with the American Medical Association's site. Click on "Doctor Finder," which will take you to the AMA's "Physician Select." You can search by the provider's name or his/her medical specialty. If you don't see his/her specialty listed, click for an expanded list of medical practice specialties. The site lists both AMA and non-AMA members who are either MDs or DOs (Doctors of Osteopathy, or osteopaths). You must have the provider's last name and state or zip code. However,

you can use a * as a wild card character for the first name and you can check a box for a "sounds like" search. A successful search will list the provider's medical (or osteopathic) school and year of graduation, location and type of residency training, and major professional activity (for example, office-based practice).

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For DOs, go to the American Osteopathic Association's site. Click on "Find a D.O." The advanced search engine allows for searches by name (last or first), city, state, zip code, primary specialty or type of practice. The resulting AOA Yearbook & Directory entry lists the provider's osteopathic school and year of graduation, primary specialty and AOA board certification.

For dentists, look at the American Dental Association's site. Click on "Find a Dentist." The ADA member directory's search criteria include name (last and first), city, state, zip code, and specialty (general practice, surgery, periodontics, etc). There also are links to state and local dental societies such as the New York State Dental Association.



of the Professions site. You can search by the provider's name or license number. You can use this site to look up other health professionals, such as acupuncturists, Certified Social Workers (CSWs), chiropractors, dentists, Nurse Practitioners (NPs), occupational therapists (OTs), physical therapists (PTs), and podiatrists. Be sure to select a

profession and then type in the name in this way: last name separated by a space (NOT a comma) first name. The license information will include the license number, the date of licensure, and the status, meaning whether he/she is registered. Depending upon the licensee, the medical school and date of degree also

might be listed.

Outside New York State, try the Administrators in Medicine site. Click on "Doc Finder." AIM covers the following nineteen states: Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas,

For Licensing...

To confirm that the provider is licensed to practice in New York State, go to the New York State Education Department's Office



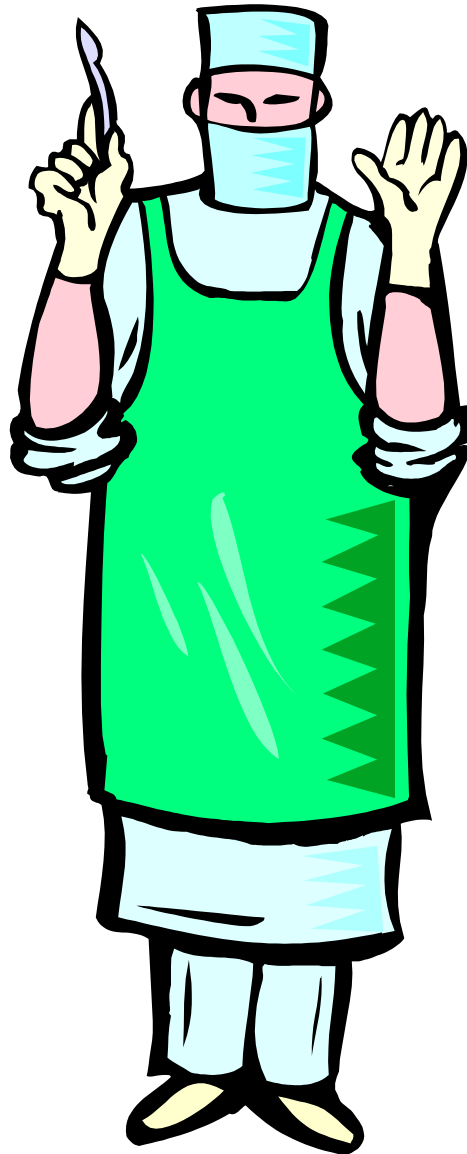
Vermont, and Wyoming. In addition, there are links to osteopathic boards in California, Maine and Oklahoma as well as the podiatric board in California.

board-certified in New York State, then try the Federation of State Medical Boards site. Click on "Board Directory" for an alphabetical list of FSMB member boards with links to the Boards' sites.

For Board Certification...

Go to the American Board of Medical Specialties site (Note: Registration is required). ABMS is an organization of 24 approved medical specialty boards, covering: allergy & immunology, anesthesiology, colon & rectal surgery, dermatology, emergency medicine, family practice, internal medicine, medical genetics, neurological surgery, nuclear medicine, obstetrics & gynecology, ophthalmology, orthopedic surgery, otolaryngology, pathology, pediatrics, physical medicine & rehabilitation, plastic surgery, preventive medicine, psychiatry & neurology, radiology, surgery, thoracic surgery and urology. The ABMS medical specialty list is alphabetical with links to the Boards' sites.

However, if the medical provider is not



For Professional Misconduct and/or Medical Malpractice...

First, go to the New York State Department of Health's Professional Misconduct & Physician Discipline site. According to this site, the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC) "is responsible for investigating complaints about physicians, physician assistants, and specialist assistants. The Office also monitors practitioners who have been placed on probation." This site has information from 1992 on. Click on "Physician Search." The search requires name, license number (if you do not know, click on "License Number Look-up"), license type, effective date, and etc. Wild card characters can be used for name and license type and you can specify a search based on any or all of the criteria. The "successful" search will



list the effective date of OPMC’s action, a description of their action, and a description of the misconduct. An example (familiar to many DAPers), consultative examiner Dr. Peter Graham: as of April 2, 1996, his license was suspended for 2 years, stayed with probation for 2 years with provision of emergency services only under supervision.

For pre-1992 information, you can contact OPMC by telephone, 1-800-663-6114 (Mondays-Fridays 9am-5pm); email, opmc@health.state.ny.us; or mail, NYS Dept of Health, OPMC, 433 River Street, Suite 303, Troy, NY 12180.



Education, Practice Info, Legal Actions, Professional Activities, and Statement. Within each of these categories are subcategories: for example, Legal Actions comprises Malpractice, NY Licensee Actions (which links to OPMC), Out-of-State Actions, Current Limitations, Hospital Restrictions and Criminal Convictions.

Again using Dr. Graham: as of a September 13, 2002 update, under Hospital Restrictions, “emergency services can only be performed under supervision in emergency room setting” in New York.

In addition, take a look at the New York State Physician Profile site. This site has profiles of all MDs and DOs registered to practice in New York State. There are links to language translation in Chinese, Haitian Creole, Russian and Spanish. You need at least one of the following: last name, first name, field of medicine, hospital, county or borough, or city, town or village. Depending on the provider, the search might include these categories:

One Fee-Based Search Engine...

Knowx.com “provides instant access to comprehensive public record information.” Under the professional license category, searches are available for chiropractors, dentists and physicians. Returning to Dr. Graham, Knowx found a match but wanted \$9.95 “to purchase details.”



Microsoft Revises Product Support Policies

On October 15, 2002, Microsoft published a new policy regarding the support of its software products. Under the previous policy, Microsoft could drop support on any product after giving customers six month's notice. Most customers felt that they had been placed in a very awkward position, never knowing how long a product would be supported and/or not necessarily having funds in the budget to purchase an upgrade. It has been reported that as many as 2/3 of customers refused to purchase the discounted upgrades within the 6-month time period. They continued to use unsupported software and then either purchased product upgrades from Microsoft at full price or switched to a product offered by one of Microsoft's competitors.

For Consumer/Hardware/Multimedia Products, Microsoft will offer a minimum of five years of mainstream support from the date of a product's general availability. Product's with a new version released annually (for example, Money, Encarta, Picture It!, Streets & Trips) will receive a minimum of three years of mainstream support from their date of availability. Additionally, most products will receive at least eight years of online self-help support.



Realistic Product Lifecycles

Under this new plan, users can plan on how long a product can be used. Many products that were to be phased out in the near future have been given a reprieve. Listed below are some of the most commonly used Microsoft operating systems and

Business and Software Development Products will be supported for five years from the date of release. That support includes all the support options and programs that customers receive today, such as no-charge incident support, paid incident support, support charged on an hourly basis, support for warranty claims, and hotfix support. For support beyond the initial five years, companies can purchase up to two additional years of extended support that could include assisted support (charged on an hourly basis) and hotfix support. Microsoft will also make self-help online support available via the Internet for at least eight years.

products:

Windows 98/SE	6/30/2002
Windows Me	12/31/2003
Windows 2000 Pro	3/31/2005
Windows XP	12/31/2006
Office 2000	6/30/2004
Office XP	6/30/2007

For a complete list of product support lifecycle dates as well as more detailed information about the new Microsoft support policy, visit their web site at: <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=fh;EN-US;lifecycle>.



WNYLC Web Statistics For October 2002

Total Hits 613,544
 Total User Sessions 20,904
 Average Hits/Day
 (Monday—Friday) 21,619
 Average User Sessions/Weekday . . . 802
 Number of Pages Viewed 414,667
 Average Number Of Pages
 Viewed Per Day 13,376
 Average Visit Length 24:08 minutes
 Number of Documents Viewed . . . 71,837

Accessed Using Internet Explorer . . . 92%
 Accessed Using Netscape 5%
 Operating Systems Used:
 Windows 98 19%
 Windows 2000 68%
 Windows XP 3.6%
 Windows 95 3.4%
 Windows ME 1%
 Windows NT 1.7%
 Macintosh 0.4%



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