



How Your Health Messages are Sourced

Health messages are sourced from peer-reviewed health science journals (i.e., *The New England Journal of Medicine*), web-available publications of the US government (e.g., *Office of Dietary Supplements* of the *National Institutes of Health*), and publications of health advocacy organizations (e.g., *American Cancer Society*).

Peer-reviewed health science journals: Tables of contents of 40 + journals are regularly reviewed. When an article title topic potentially matches ACA's health message content criteria is identified, an abstract and/or full article is obtained.

The article or abstract is reviewed and evaluated to determine whether or not it is suitable for crafting into a message to be broadcast on behalf of pharmacists.

US government websites: ACA searches for specific topics at US government websites including *National Institutes of Health* (NIH) (www.nih.gov) and US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC (www.cdc.gov).

NIH is the primary agency of the US government responsible for biomedical and public health research. Within the NIH are a multitude of institutes, centers, and offices including the *National Cancer Institute* (NCI) (www.cancer.gov), *National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute* (NHLBI) (www.nhlbi.nih.gov), and *National Institute on Aging* (NIA) (www.nia.nih.gov), to name only a few. The *Office of Dietary Supplements* (ODS) (www.ods.od.nih.gov) is an excellent source of reliable and current information on specific vitamins, minerals, and herbal products.

CDC conducts critical science and provides health information that protects our nation against expensive and dangerous health threats and responds when these arise. CDC is an excellent source of information on vaccines.

Websites of nonbiased health advocacy organizations: The websites of organizations such as *American Heart Association* typically provide reliable information and data on health problems that represent their primary focus. At these websites one can often find treatment protocols; evaluations of recently-available medications; research in progress; and much more.