

www.safemedication.com

The consumer site of the American Society of Health System Pharmacists provides easy-to-read information on more than 700 drugs, based on data from its pharmacist members and other experts. It includes a Medication Safety checklist, and instructions on how to administer things like eye drops, suppositories and inhalers. The site allows users to search by medication name for information on side effects, what to do if you miss a dose and any dietary considerations.

www.ismp.org

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices focuses on medication safety and publishes regular reports on common medication errors, such as drugs whose names might cause confusion, it also has an online consumer newsletter with tips on how to read medication leaflets and what to ask the pharmacist.

www.drugdigest.org

This is the consumer site of ExpressScripts, a big pharmacy benefit manager. It has information on drugs, vitamins and herbs, and disease management. A Drug Interactions database details potentially harmful combinations. A Compare Drugs feature can help you decide whether one brand-name drug might be more beneficial than another.

www.fda.gov/cder/consumerinfo

The Food and Drug Administration's Consumer Drug Information page has general information about prescription drugs approved since January 1998, including some not yet on the market. Each drug fact sheet has information based on the approved package insert.

www.webmd.com

Search its Drug and Herb section for information about drugs and herbs by name. The site includes answers on the most important information to know about a drug, who shouldn't take it, what happens in case of overdose and what drugs might interact with it.

www.medlineplus.gov

The consumer site of the National Library of Medicine, Medline provides prescription-drug information from other groups, including U.S. Pharmacopoeia (www.usp.org), a nongovernmental, standards-setting organization that promotes safe use of medications and verifies ingredients in dietary supplements.

www.mypillbox.org

From the nonprofit Sharp Foundation and the San Diego Cardiac Center, this site lets users create a pill-taking schedule and search drugs by use, such as "dilates blood vessels" or "controls blood sugar." It also has pictures of common prescription drugs to help identify pills.

www.rxlist.com

An advertiser-supported site, it has continually updated information on the most-prescribed drugs, including side effects, drug interactions, dosage and precautions.

www.drugs.com

This ad-supported site's backers include Thomson Healthcare, publisher of the Physicians Desk Reference. The site offers a drug-inter action checker, pill identifier, and search function for information on 24,000 drugs that includes some photos. It also has the latest drug news and articles, including reports on FDA actions.