

What is HEAL-WA?

HEAL-WA, located at <http://heal-wa.org>, is the evidence-based health sciences information portal developed by the University of Washington Health Sciences Libraries in response to Sections 11 and 12 of Senate Bill 5930, which was signed into law in May 2007. The HEAL-WA site provides access to evidence-based information for practitioners across Washington State, particularly those who do not currently have access to resources through the services of a health sciences library.

Who can use the site?

All professionals licensed by Washington State who are members of one of the professions named in the legislation (Acupuncturists, Chiropractors, Massage Therapists, Mental Health Counselors, Naturopathic Physicians, Optometrists, Osteopathic Physicians and Osteopathic Physician Assistants, Physicians and Physician Assistants, Podiatrists, Psychologists, Registered Nurses, and Social Workers) are able to use the licensed resources in the web site. The site is funded by an add-on to the license fees of these practitioners.

How do I get access to HEAL-WA?

The site is available at <http://heal-wa.org>. You must create a user id and password to access the licensed resources (those indicated by a lock) on HEAL-WA. To set up your user id, follow the “Getting Started” link (about midway down the home page) to set up your user account, or, you can go directly to the Getting Started page at <http://heal-wa.org/resources/getting-started> and follow the directions there. Once your user id is set up you’ll be able to use any of the resources contained in HEAL-WA.

Do health practitioners across the state have access to the UW Health Sciences Library?

Although there is some overlap between the resources in HEAL-WA and the University of Washington Health Sciences Library web site, HEAL-WA is separate from the services provided to University of Washington faculty, staff, and students. Access to HEAL-WA **does not** include access to all of the resources available in the UW Health Sciences Library website.

What is included in HEAL-WA?

The HEAL-WA web site contains a variety of resources selected to give practitioners in each of the named professions access to timely, evidence-based resources that can help them answer patient care questions, and contains a variety of resources including:

- Evidence-based databases (DynaMed, Nursing Reference Center, Natural Standard, and others)
- electronic textbooks
- some full text articles

If you would like to make suggestions for resources you wish to see included, or offer feedback on the site, please contact Valerie Lawrence, MLS, Acting HEAL-WA Resource Coordinator, at (206) 221-2452 or by e-mail at vjlawren@u.washington.edu.