## Web Writing for Healthcare Marketers

**Content Best Practices** 

JILL J. JENSEN | CONTENT DIRECTOR



## **Geonetric Clients**



## **Webinar Information**

- Webinar lasts one hour
- Enter questions at any time
- Recording will be posted in our webinar archive within 48 hours
- Please take the post-webinar survey which will appear at the conclusion of the webinar
- Follow along on Twitter using the #Geonetric hashtag

## **Today's Presenter**



#### Jill J. Jensen | Content Director

- Helps clients tell their stories through clear and memorable copy
- She's a ruthless editor
- Has more than 35 years of experience across every medium



## Web Writing for Healthcare Marketers

**Content Best Practices** 

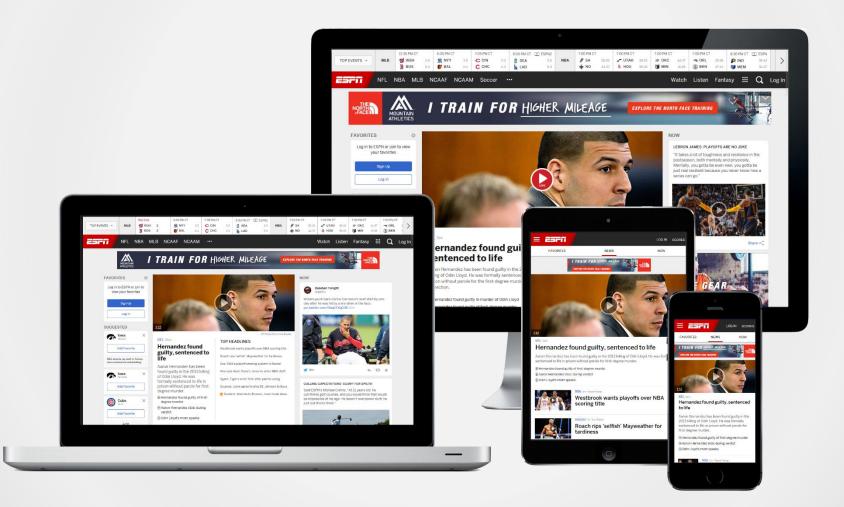
JILL J. JENSEN | CONTENT DIRECTOR



# Content



## **Content for a Multiscreen World**



## **Social = Customer-Driven**

## facebook





Home: How it works

Quick Tour | FAQ | In the Press | Articles

More than 2 million households use Angle's List to find high quality service companies and health care professionals in over 700 categories.

Join Nov

#### Best of Yelp: San Francisco



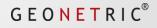


## **User-Focused Content for All**

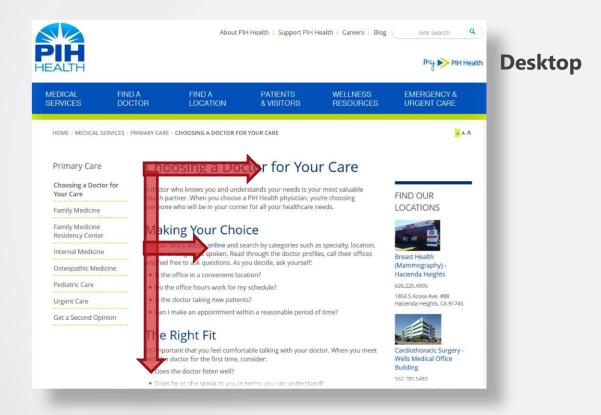


In the last year:

- ~60% of all smartphone owners looked up medical information
- ~75% of smartphone owners age 18-29 used their phones to find health information



## How People Read Web Pages





It's important that you feel comfortable talking with your doctor. When you meet with the

## Long Copy Works—If It's Good



#### Heart & Vascular

Trust your heart and vascular care to the experienced medical professionals at Adventist HealthCare. From diagnosing chest pain and abnormal heart rhythms to opening blocked arteries and repairing leaky heart valves, you'll find the expert <u>cardiovascular services and treatments</u> you need close to home.

#### CONDITIONS WE TREAT

No matter where you live in the Washington, DC metro area—Rockville to Takoma Park and across the Beltway—you can rely on Adventist HealthCare to treat the full range of heart and vascular conditions, such as:

- Acute coronary syndrome (ACS) Chest pain and obstruction of coronary arteries, which may lead to heart attack
- Atrial fibrillation and arrhythmias Heart rhythm disorders
- Congestive heart failure Inability of the heart to maintain adequate blood flow throughout the body
- · Heart tumor Unusual growths in the heart
- Heart valve conditions Malfunctions of the aortic, mitral or tricuspid valves that regulate the flow of blood through the heart
- Vascular blockages and conditions that affect circulation in arteries, veins and blood vessels

#### SERVICES WE OFFER

Expect top-quality care for your heart and circulation system at Adventist HealthCare. Our board-certified cardiologists, electrophysiologists, interventional radiologists and cardiothoracic/vascular surgeons work together to deliver comprehensive, award-winning heart and vascular care that includes:

- Accredited Chest Pain Centers Recognized nationally as first in Maryland and Montgomery County to deliver quick response for emergency heart-related situations at Adventist hospitals in Rockville and Takoma Park
- <u>Diagnosis and testing</u> Advanced tools and technology to assess your heart or vascular condition

## **Inverted Pyramid**

Start with your conclusion

Make headings meaningful

Use one concept per paragraph

Start paragraphs with your main point

Use a scanfriendly layout

## **Scan-Friendly Layout**

Use visual cues to directly support scanning

- Short paragraphs of text
- More headings and subheads
- Bulleted lists, where appropriate
- **Bold** or *italic* text, in moderation
- Captions for images, charts, media elements
- Accordion or tab containers to make longer content accessible

### midwest orthopedic



#### ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

If you or your child need musculoskeletal surgery, turn to Midwest Orthopedic Specialty Services to get care from some of the nation's top orthopedic surgeons. Stay close to home while benefiting from doctors who have collectively performed more orthopedic surgeries than physicians at any other health facility in Wisconsin.

- Headings
- Subheads
- Bold text
- Bulleted lists

#### RELATED HEALTH RESOURCES

- Anatomy of a Joint
- Arthritis Diagnosis
- Arthroscopy
- View all Resources »

Our skilled surgeons teach doctors around the country how to perform several advanced procedures, which means you can trust us to help you get back to the life you love.

#### SURGEONS TREAT YOU WITH RESPECT

Your surgeon at Midwest Orthopedic Specialty Services will treat you and your

loved ones as friends. When you ask questions, you'll get complete, understandable answers - delivered with respect and compassion. You'll receive tailored treatment from a doctor who thoroughly knows your medical history, concerns and goals. We partner with you throughout your journey to recovery and help you feel encouraged, comfortable and supported.

#### YOUR SURGICAL OPTIONS

No matter what surgical procedure you need, choose Midwest Orthopedic Specialty Services for expert care of your ankles, feet, hips, knees, hands, wrists, elbows, shoulders or spine and neck.

We'll rely on minimally invasive arthroscopic techniques whenever possible to minimize pain and speed your recovery. Take advantage of:

- Joint restoration Uses innovative techniques to restore function while preserving your joint
- Joint replacement Eases pain by exchanging arthritic joints for artificial implants
- Fusion procedures Reduces discomfort by fusing the ends of bones that meet at a painful joint
- Pediatric surgery Treats orthopedic conditions and injuries in children





Captions for images, charts, media

#### Video transcripts



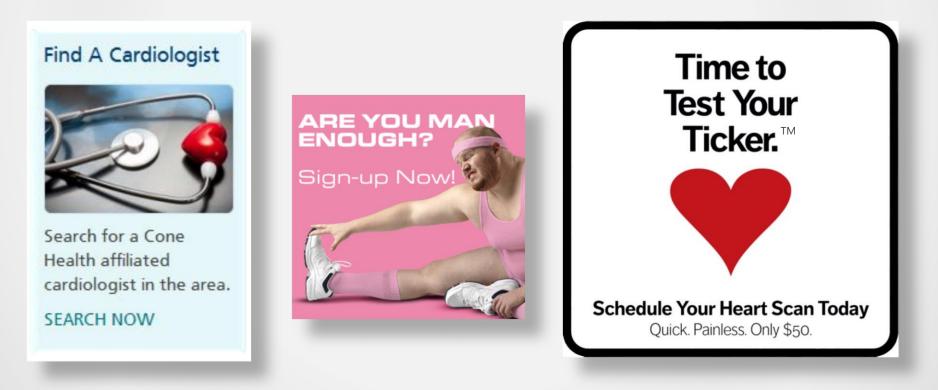
#### Short paragraphs

Hospital B16-221-I Physician Referral & Health In					
Find-a-Doctor	Services Patients & Visi	itors Classes & Events	Community	For Physicians Jobs	
ome > About > Partnersh	ips			ə 🗠 🕇 💌 🔯 🗗	1
About History	Partnerships         From advanced cancer treatment options to community health events, we partner with other healthcare organizations and community entities to expand your access to specialists and provide high quality healthcare and wellness services of the University of Kansas Cancer Center         The University of Kansas Cancer Center       -			My NKCH Account Learn more about connecting to NKCH Sign in using your North Kansas City Hospital account Username	
Mission Facts					
Executive Leadership Partnerships					
Affiliations Accreditations Recognitions News & Media	Our partnership with The University of Kansas Cancer Center offers patients even greater access to treatment options available at a National Cancer Institute-designated		Sign In Forgot username or password Create an account		
	cancer center, including clinical trials and the latest prevention and screening tools. Together, we manage and operate the radiation oncology program on the hospital's campus. Additionally, The University of Kansas Cancer Center manages and operates a medical oncology program adjacent to the radiation oncology facility.			Quick Links  Maps & Parking  Flowers & Gifts  Pre-Admission Registration	ion
	Midwest Cancer	Alliance	+	<ul> <li>Financial Services</li> <li>Cheer Cards</li> </ul>	
	Children's Mercy Hospital +		▹ Baby Photos		
	Excelsior Springs Hospital +			<ul> <li>Your Health Magazine</li> <li>Medical Records</li> </ul>	

### Accordion or tab containers

## Calls to Action

Attention-grabbing, engaging, visually powerful items on your pages that direct users to the desired action



## Web Writing Best Practices



## **Good Web Content**

Helps people find you



#### Drives visitors to action



## Web Writing Best Practices

- 1. Focus on the user
- 2. Keep it simple
- 3. Make it easy to take action



## What's in it for me? How will your services help me? How will you make my life easier?



## Percentage of patients or prospects who visit hospital websites before booking their appointment

## Focus on the User



## Web Writing Best Practices

G F O N F T R I C<sup>®</sup>

### **1.** Focus on the user

- Write in second person
- Visualize your audience
- Define key messages
- Give users what they want
- Help users achieve their goals
- Use a conversational tone
- Limit medical jargon
- Define/explain acronyms and brand names

## user-centric writing

focuses on the benefits of your product or service, not the features

### What do **users** want to know?

What do **you** want or need users to know?

What should users **do next**?

## Ask yourself...

## So What?



We offer minimally invasive total knee replacement.



The surgeon doesn't have to cut as much of the tissue around your knee.



# You'll experience less pain and scarring, and you'll recover faster.

When surgery is your best option, choose a minimally invasive knee replacement procedure at Benefit Health System.



Your expert surgeons use a small incision, affecting less tissue around your knee, so you experience less pain and scarring. That means you'll enjoy a quicker recovery and get back to the activities you love sooner. We have a Mission: Lifeline Gold Receiving Quality Achievement Award.



We have a high standard of care for patients presenting with STEMI.

So what?

If you or a loved one experience a heart attack, you'll get the expert, top-quality treatment you need quickly. When you or a loved one experience So symptoms of a heart attack, you can trust your care to the cardiac experts at Benefit Health System.

You'll get the fast, top-quality treatment that saves lives. That's because your heart health team meets or exceeds national standards for heart attack care recognized when we received the 2015 Mission: Lifeline Gold Receiving Quality Achievement Award.

### **Original Copy**

#### User-Centric Copy



The American Heart Association recognizes this hospital for achieving 85 percent or higher composite adherence to all Mission: Lifeline STEMI Receiving Center Performance Achievement Indicators for consecutive 24-month intervals and 75 percent or higher compliance on all Mission: Lifeline STEMI Receiving Center quality measures to improve the quality of care for STEMI patients.

When you put your heart in our hands, you'll get the fast, highquality, life-saving care you need for severe heart attack. You can trust our experience and attention to your treatment. Our efforts are recognized by a **Mission: Lifeline Gold Receiving Quality Achievement Award** from the American Heart Association.



## Keep It Simple



## Web Writing Best Practices



- Scan-friendly
- Lead with the main message
- Break it up
- Use headings and subheads
- Make it concise



# Short, Concise Web Writing

- Gets to the point
- Uses easy-to-understand words and phrases
- Covers only one topic per paragraph
- Includes subheads to help readers scan
- Uses active verbs and an active voice

## **Passive vs Active Voice**

### **Passive Voice**

There is conflicting data about the effectiveness of avoiding certain food allergens during pregnancy (e.g. peanuts). Your doctor can provide you with personalized advice about whether you should avoid such foods based on your medical history as well as the medical history of your child's biological father.

### **Active Voice**

Information about the benefits of avoiding certain food allergens like peanuts—during pregnancy remains unsettled. Ask your doctor for advice about what's best for you, based on the medical histories of you and your child's biological father.

## Make It Easy To Take Action



# Web Writing Best Practices

### 3. Make it easy to take action

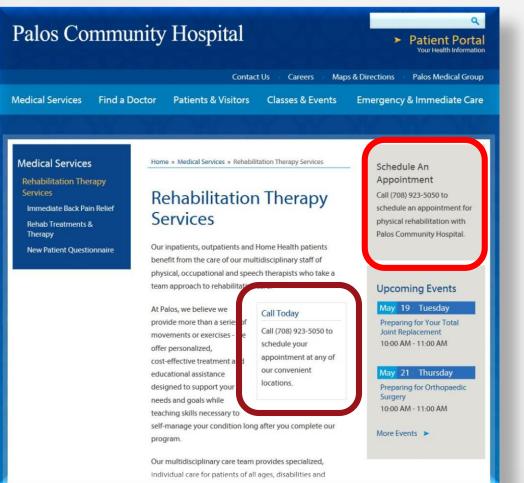
- Use trigger words
- Keep it online whenever possible
- Build more online forms
- Take advantage of dynamic content
- Add multimedia and social media
- Include a call to action (CTA) on every page

### **Call to Action**

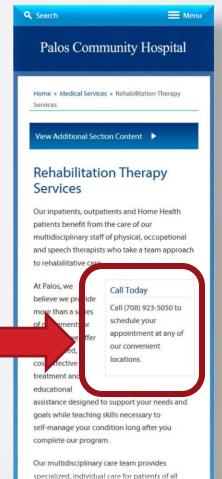


## **Call-to-Action Placement**

#### Desktop

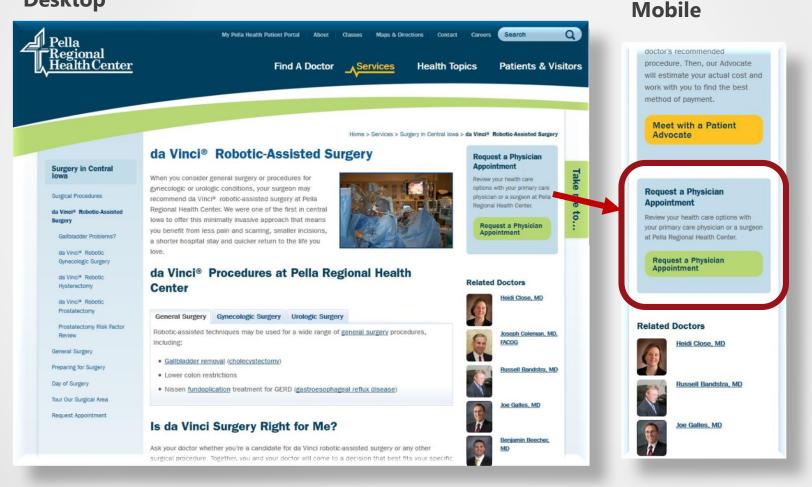


#### Mobile



## **Call-to-Action Placement**

#### Desktop



## Sample Web Page Structures



# Sample Web Page Structures

- Page header/title that's descriptive but not too long
- Short introductory paragraph of one or two sentences

### Structure 1

- Use subheads above each brief paragraph of text
  - Subheads serve as highlevel guides through the page content

### Structure 2

- Create bulleted list of important points; no more than one item or sentence per bullet
  - Limit bulleted lists to
    6 or 7 points

## Sample Structure 1

ŀ			About F	PIH Health Support	PIH Health   Careers (	Site Search	٩
	IEDICAL ERVICES	FIND A DOCTOR	FIND A LOCATION	PATIENTS & VISITORS	WELLNESS RESOURCES	EMERGENCY & URGENT CARE	
T0 +	HOME > MEDICAL S	ERVICES > CAN(	CER CARE > RADIATION TREATMEN	NT & THERAPY			a a A
. WANT	Cancer Care		Radiation Tre	eatment 8	& Therapy		
	Radiation Treatm Therapy	ient &	cancer. It uses high-energy ra	apy is a highly effective treatment for many types of high-energy rays to destroy cancer cells and shrink			RY
▼ ▼	<ul> <li>Chemotherapy, Biotherapy &amp; Infusion</li> <li>Complementary</li> <li>Medicine</li> <li>Cancer Support Services</li> </ul>		tumors. If radiation is part of far to get the best care. You of team at PIH Health to fight you effective radiation technolog				
+			Accredited Rac				
			The PIH Health Ruby L. Golleher Oncology Center is one of only a few programs in California accredited by the American College of Radiology.       Explor         This designation means we follow strict national guidelines and are dedicated to providing safe, effective care for our patients.       Explor				ditions,
			Advanced Rad	iation Ther	ару		
			The Radiation Oncology Cent that require radiation therap colorectal, esophagus, gyneo	y, including bladder, l	brain, breast,		

lymphoma, myeloma, prostate, sarcoma, skin and stomach cancers.

There are two general types of radiation therapy-external beam and internal. We offer both types.

#### External Beam Radiation Therapy

This advanced treatment method uses highly detailed imaging to precisely define tumors and focus radiation beams on them.

Narrative with subheads

## **Sample Structure 2**

			About Pl	IH Health Support PIH H	Health Careers Blog	Site Search Q
MEDICAL SERVICES	FIND / DOCT		FIND A LOCATION	PATIENTS & VISITORS	WELLNESS RESOURCES	EMERGENCY & URGENT CARE
HOME > MEDICAL	L SERVICES > EN	ERGENCY CAR	E > STROKE WARNING SIG	NS & SYMPTOMS		A A A
Emergency ( Heart Receiving	g Center			g Signs & Sy		
Heart Attack Symptoms Stroke Receiving Center Stroke Warning Signs & Symptoms		blood and the oxygen it carries, part of the brain starts to die. The part of the body controlled by the damaged area of the brain can't work properly.				HEALTH LIBRARY
			age can begin within mi			
		symptoms of stroke and to act fast. Quick treatment can help limit damage to the brain and increase the chance of a full recovery.				
Coming to the E	ng to the ER Stro		e Symptoms			
			2 1	ckly. A stroke may cause:		Explore health conditions,
			udden numbness, tingling, weakness or loss of movement in your face, arm or leg, especially on only one side of your body		treatments and procedures.	
		<ul> <li>Sudder</li> </ul>	vision changes			
		Sudder	n trouble speaking			
		Sudder	n confusion or trouble u	nderstanding simple state	ements	
		<ul> <li>Sudder</li> </ul>	problems with walking	or balance		

• A sudden, severe headache that is different from past headaches

Brief introduction with bulleted list

### **Content/SEO Connection**





## Write for real people.





٩

Web Images News Videos Books More \* Search tools

About 12,200,000 results (0.21 seconds)

#### Brain Tumor - mayoclinic.org

4.8 ★★★★★ rating for mayoclinic.org Mayo Clinic – Treating thousands of brain tumor patients annually. Mayo Clinic ranked #1 hospital in 2014 – US News Mayo Clinic has 444,220 followers on Google+

Disease & Treatment Info

Connect with others

Request an appointment

#### Brain Tumors - cancercenter.com

Source and the second seco

#### Learn about Brain Tumors - Brain Tumor FAQs & Symptoms www.abc2.org/BrainTumors -

Brain Tumor Types & Statistics. Fight brain tumors - Fight brain cancer - Get informed - Donate online The Story of ABC2 - FasterCures Innovator - How We Fund

#### Brain Tumors (Benign and Malignant): Symptoms, Causes ...

www.webmd.com/cancer/brain-cancer/brain-tumors-in-adults 
WebMD
No one knows what causes brain tumors; there are only a few known risk factors that have been established by research. Children who receive radiation to the ...

#### Brain Tumor: Symptoms, Surgery, Types, and Treatment

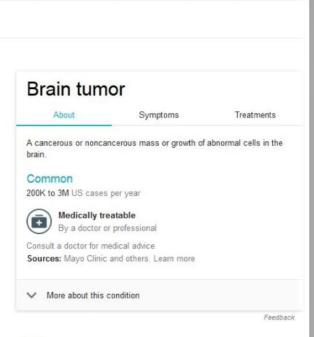
www.medicinenet.com/brain\_tumor/article.htm 
MedicineNet
Harain tumor symptoms include headaches, nausea or vomiting, balance and walking problems, mood and personality changes, memory problems, and ...
The symptoms of a brain tumor - Patient Comments - What is the brain?

#### Brain tumor - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brain\_tumor 
Wikipedia
A brain tumor or intracranial neoplasm occurs when abnormal cells form within the brain. There are two main types of tumors: malignant or cancerous tumors ...
ICD-9: 191, 225.0 ICD-10: D33

#### Brain Tumor Symptoms | American Brain Tumor Association

www.abta.org/brain-tumor /sympto · American Brain Tumor Association ·



#### ds

Symptoms of Brain Tumors www.cityofhope.org/ \* (855) 268-7917 Call City of Hope: One of America's Best Hospitals for Cancer Treatment

Brain Tumor Symptoms www.braintumor.org/ \* Possible Brain Tumor? Learn About Brain Tumor Symptoms and Diagnosis.

Brain Tumor Types www.akidsbraintumorcure.org/ • PLGA Foundation: Learn more about primary brain tumor types.

What Causes Brain Cancer



#### GEONETRIC<sup>®</sup>

....

## **CMS/VitalSite SEO Tools**

1 K 1	

SEO Tip Create a descriptive Page Title HTML Page Title Recommendation: 10-70 characters
Wellness Program
16/128
SEO Tip Add a Description summarizing this content Description Recommendation: 30-160 characters Benefit Health wellness programs promote healthy living for the mind, body and soul. We offer fitness classes,
personal trainers, nutrition services and more.
158/160
Keywords Used only by VitalSite's on-site search

Search & Findability

wellness, health, fitness, personal trainer, nutrition, weight management

Include in Public Search

Include in SmartPanels

Content	Layout	Navigation	Taxonomy	Permissions	Custom HTML
Wellnes	s Programs				
/community	y/ wellness-r	programs			

Image Proper	ties	_
Alternate Text		
Class	Not set	
Insert		

# **HTML Page Title**

- Create as single line of text ~60 to 70 characters
  - First 40 characters must describe page topic; titles may be shortened in navigation menus and search results
- Start title with most descriptive words; helps users choose your page from search results list
- Title should make sense out of context
- Avoid starting with generic term ("Welcome to") or an article ("The")
- Give each page a unique title
- Pages about same topic can start with same words but should end with words unique to page

# **HTML Page Title**

Appears at top of browser windows, in applicable tabs, in search results pages and in external websites



Cone Health - Cone Health - Greensboro, NC - Mozilla Firefox



Sone Health - Cone Health - Greensbor...



#### Cone Health - Cone Health - Greensboro, NC

www.conehealth.com/ 
Moses Cone Health System 
Cone Health is a not-for-profit network of healthcare providers serving people in Guilford, Forsyth, Rockingham, Alamance and Randolph counties.

#### Careers

Careers At Cone Health. Cone Health Nurse Cone Health is a ...

#### Pay Your Bill Online

Pay your Cone Health hospital or physician bill online.

#### Employees

Cone Health employees can access information, training ...

More results from conehealth.com »

#### The Moses H Cone Memoria...

The Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital is the largest and most ...

#### About Us

About Cone Health. About Us. Cone Health is a not-for-profit ...

#### Services

Women's Services - Cancer Care -Behavioral Health - ...

# **Page Description**

- Use 155 characters or less—including spaces; different search engines display different number of characters before shortening
- Write as "storefront" text for your page
- Put all identifying information **first**; follow with important words and terms
- Clearly inform users about what to expect from page; avoid hype, buzzwords or misleading information
- Needs to make sense when read out of context

## **Page Description**

<meta name="description" content="Cone Health is a not-for-profit network of healthcare providers serving people in Guilford, Forsyth, Rockingham, Alamance and Randolph counties." />

ConeHealth - Cone Health - Greensboro, NC www.conehealth.com/ Cone Health is a not-for-profit network of healthcare providers serving people in Guilford, Forsyth, Rockingham, Alamance and Randolph counties. Careers - Employees - Pay Your Bill Online - Services

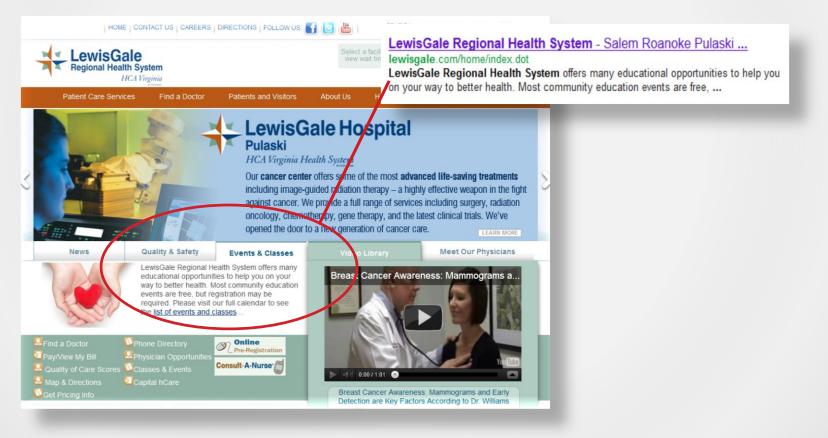


## **Page Description**

Get nationally recognized joint replacement care for knees, hips and other joints at Benefit Hospital, part of Benefit Health System in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

# **No Page Description?**

### Search engines arbitrarily select text from the page



# Image ALT Tag

Describes image for screen readers, blind users, anyone with accessibility needs, search crawlers and those who turn off images

- Be accurate and truthful; match image and text
- Be concise; use only a few words
- Avoid phrases like "image of ... " or "picture of ... "
- Avoid keyword stuffing
- Don't use ALT tag if surrounding text contains enough description for assistive devices to understand the image

# Image ALT Tag

Home > Patients & Visitors	MyChart Login  Search Contact Us Careers About Mary Greeley Maps & Directions
Home > Patients & Visitors	
H H	
<ul> <li>Patients &amp; Visitors</li> <li>Patient Information</li> <li>Amenities for Patients &amp; Visitors</li> <li>Billing, Financial Assistance &amp; Insurance</li> <li>Construction Project</li> </ul>	Hospital Floor Map Unit of the second secon
Gold	The Patient

#### Patients & Visitors

Whether you're a patient or a visitor at Ma to be welcoming and caring. Even before to find information that can help you get r Golden retriever dog comforts man in bed on the West Tower specialty care floor at Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames, Iowa.

## Link Anchor Text

- Used by site visitors and search engines
- Gives clues about where the link will go and what content will be found on the linked page
- Add information about media format, length, file size

Do this:

Explore our comprehensive heart and vascular services and call for an appointment.

GEONETRIC<sup>®</sup>

Or this:

Take our **<u>Birth Center virtual tour</u>** [video; 2:30] and call for an appointment.

Not this:

<u>Click here</u> to find out more about heart and vascular care.

# **Directory and File Naming**

- Use hyphens ( ) to separate multiple words; don't use underscores for separators or express as one long word
- Use specific keywords in section and file names; choose main term(s) to help page rank highly in search

Content	Layout	Navigation	Taxonomy	Permissions	Custom HTML
Wellnes	s Programs				
/community	// wellness-p				



# **Directory and File Naming**

Make URLs descriptive and easy to read

*Wrong:* http://www.benefithealth.com/diseases/cancer/cancer-services *Right:* http://www.benefithealth.com/cancer/services

Make URLs simple and clear; don't load with keywords or repeat keywords *Wrong:* http://www.benefithealth.com/diseases-conditions-treatmentand-symptoms/cancer-radiology-tests/breast-cancer-mammography *Right:* http://www.benefithealth.com/cancer/mammography

Avoid abbreviations or acronyms in URLs





## W4W Summary

# W4W Summary

- Write with inverted pyramid
- Use visual cues for scan-friendly layouts
- Create clear calls to action
- Focus on the user
- Keep it simple and concise
- Make it easy to take action
- Collaborate with your designer to give users the best possible content experience
- Balance narrative pages and bulleted lists
- Make the content/SEO connection
  - Write for real people
  - Create good metadata

## Questions?



### **Geonetric Content Resources**

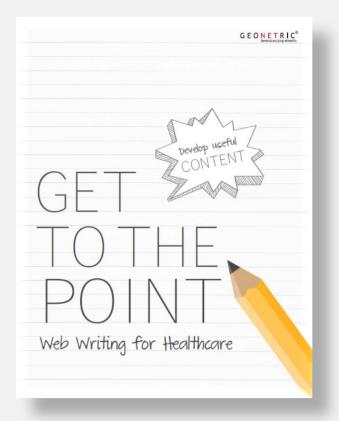


## **Content Guidance @ GeoVoices**

- <u>The Value of Content? PRICELESS!</u>
- Website Content Creating the Good Stuff
- Effortless Content? In Your Dreams.
- Top Tasks and the Paradox of Choice
- Measuring Your Content Investment
- <u>Telling Your Whole Brand Story: System-Wide Approach to Web Content</u> <u>Structure</u>
- <u>Content that Helps, Not Sells: A Formula for Creating Great Content</u>
- Four Ways to Get More Out of Your Hospital's Web Content
- Writing Hospital Service Line Content: Do It Yourself or Call in the Professionals?



# Web Writing for Healthcare eBook

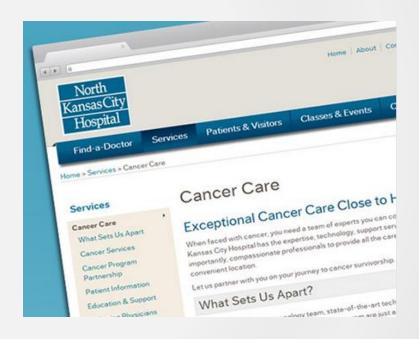


Download Web Writing for Healthcare eBook

## **Content Checkup**

# Get personalized, free feedback!

- Get expert recommendations on how to improve your content and conversions
- Discuss writing for the Web best practices
- Learn tips for improving your search engine optimization efforts



GEONETRIC<sup>®</sup>

### <u>Sign Up Now!</u>

### June Webinar: Web Design Trends for Healthcare

Tuesday, June 30 1:00 p.m. CT



Join us for this webinar and learn the latest in website design concepts.

www.geonetric.com/webinars



## Thanks!



