A Medical Educator’s Guide to #MedEd
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- Twitter is a growing social media platform in medical education. This forum is facilitated by the use of the hashtag (#).
- The hashtag/word combo #MedEd is used for tweets related to medical education and is the gold standard for medical education news on Twitter.

Why consider Twitter for medical education?
The purpose of this Last Page is to educate novice, but frequent “tweets” (i.e., Twitter users) on the possible uses of Twitter in medical education by...
- Highlighting the usefulness of #MedEd as an educational tool for independent learning and teaching
- Explaining how to search and customize your Twitter feed for high-quality medical education news
- Considering the future of #MedEd among Twitter users

#MedEd is an educational tool for medical educators and medical students. It’s a forum for...

- Links to news or journal articles
- Medical educators discussing teaching strategies
- Trending news about postgraduate training programs
- Real-time content from healthcare conferences
- Study tools (students tweet questions to each other)
- Targeted campaigns from special medical interest groups

Using, Personalizing, and Optimizing #MedEd
To the right is a flowchart highlighting the different options medical educators have for searching and customizing their Twitter page for #MedEd. The pathway individual educators choose more often will depend on how frequently they use Twitter, their career and preferences, their reasons for using Twitter and their social media influence (i.e., their number of followers).

Medical educator looking for medical education news on Twitter

Filter tweets: search #MedEd for general medical education news
Stay up-to-date on trending news / teaching strategies by reading articles related to medical education
Read live health care conference tweets
Search conference-specific #
Join a Twitter chat
See what colleagues and patients are sharing on Twitter
Subscribe to colleagues’ medical education lists

Search specific # for select interest
View medical education feeds from given recommended list
Use #s related to journals, medical schools, hospitals, and organizations
Create “lists” to filter home feed for medical education colleagues

Future of #MedEd
There has been a dramatic increase over time in both #MedEd tweets (see figure to the left) and in Twitter users using this hashtag. This increase may be leveraged for personalized teaching and learning in the classroom setting. For example, professors have successfully displayed live stream Twitter chats so students can post questions for concurrent viewing and discussion during lectures.

References

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