

## A Web-Based Daily Educational Resource for Medical Professionals

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### Introduction

TheAnswerPage.com (TAP) is an educational website aimed at medical professionals, including students, trainees, and practicing physicians and nurses. The co-founders are engaged in full-time academic practice of anesthesiology and envisioned TAP as an Internet-based extension of the Socratic-like question and answer teaching which characterizes much of clinical education.

### Methods

On each subspecialty site there is a parallel structure. The principal educational feature is the Question of the Day, a daily-changing topic in the given medical field accompanied by a peer-reviewed and referenced answer of approximately 500-1000 words. Questions and answers are grouped on an approximately weekly basis into syllabus topics. The syllabus is generally, though not explicitly, based on the respective specialty's board certification content outline. The entire archive of past questions and syllabus topics is searchable by date and content.

### Results

The URL of The Answer Page is <http://www.theanswerpage.com>. The site has been live since September 1998. At present there are five sub-sites, each concerned with a different field of medicine: Anesthesiology, Pain Management, Critical Care Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Newborn Medicine. These specialties tend to be relatively underrepresented among online medical education sites.

### Discussion:

Readers may view the material via the web site, or on handheld computers (Palm and Pocket PC), or by email. Users are able to earn AMA Physician's Recognition Award category 1 Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit for study of TAP material, using technical means of verifying participation but no requirement for quizzes.

TheAnswerPage now receives approximately 3 million page views per month and is read in over 40 countries. Since inception, TheAnswerPage has awarded over 50,000 hours of Category1 CME credit. TheAnswerPage is currently listed on the AvantGo website service for handheld as the fourth most frequently downloaded site in the field of "Health" and the second in the field of "Medicine."