**Hersh, W. R. (2005). Ubiquitous but unfinished: Online information retrieval systems. *Medical Decision Making*, 25 (2), 147-158.**

Key words: Information retrieval, health care information, MEDLINE, PubMed,

Health care information retrieval systems have become an integral part of health care as well. The most popular system to date has been the MEDLINE system provided for

free by the US National Library of Medicine. Medline PubMed provides biomedical literature to professionals, while MEDLINEplus is available to laypeople.

The most pressing issue in information retrieval in health care, however, has been the retrieval of information quickly and efficiently at the point of service. Reading through literature can take more than a half hour, and relying on journal abstracts is rarely sufficient. Studies have shown, as well, that even when clinicians can easily access information; they generally do not find the best information that reliably answers the

questions of which they are dealing. In fact, only 50% of medical students answered

questions correctly using MEDLINE. It was also difficult for students to identify whether or not the answer was correct. Considerable improvements to the system are still necessary.