

Finding Research Articles Using PubMed and CINAHL


PubMed Options

Limit to Type of Article

All citations in PubMed are for journal articles. However, you may limit your retrieval based on the type of material the article represents. Click on Limits and look at the Type of Article checklist that contains a list of frequently searched publication types.

For example, limit by Randomized Controlled Trial or Clinical Trial or Meta-Analysis.

PubMed Clinical Queries

 VIDEO available:

<http://media.hsl.washington.edu/media/howto/pubmed/clinical-queries/clinical-queries.html>

Clinical Queries uses filters to limit retrieval to systematic reviews or research-based citations on clinical topics. The Clinical Queries link is found on the PubMed home page or under the More Resources drop down box on the Advanced Search screen. Enter your search terms and evidence-filtered citations will appear under Clinical Study Categories or Systematic Reviews.

Clinical Study Categories

This specialized search query with built-in research methodology search filters is intended for clinicians. Five study categories or filters are provided: etiology, diagnosis, therapy, prognosis, and clinical prediction guides. Two emphasis categories or filters are provided: broad, sensitive search (includes relevant articles but probably some less relevant) and narrow, specific search (more precise articles, with less retrieval).

NOTE: We suggest changing to Narrow scope rather than Broad.

Systematic Reviews

This feature is provided to help clinicians locate systematic reviews and similar articles. It combines your search term(s) with citations identified as systematic reviews, meta-analyses, reviews of clinical trials, evidence-based medicine, consensus development conferences, and guidelines.

The resulting retrieval in PubMed Clinical Queries can be further refined using PubMed's Limits, e.g., English language, humans.

CINAHL: Nursing and Allied Health Options

Limit to Research Article or Randomized Controlled Trials

Select Research Article in the Limit Your Results options below the search boxes to retrieve ALL types of research articles or select Randomized Controlled Trials to limit to RTCs.

Limit by Publication Type

Select SPECIFIC research designs in the Publication Type menu such as Clinical Trial or Systematic Review or Randomized Controlled Trials.

Limit by Clinical Queries

Clinical Queries is designed for clinician use and uses filters to limit retrieval to research-based citations on clinical topics or systematic reviews. Select specific query type: Therapy, Prognosis, Review, Qualitative, Causation (Etiology). As research may require different emphasis, three strategies are provided for each area.

- High Sensitivity is the broadest search, to include ALL relevant material. May also include less relevant materials.
- High Specificity is the most targeted search to include only the most relevant result set. May miss some relevant materials.
- Best Balance retrieves the best balance between Sensitivity and Specificity.

Limit by Evidence-Based Practice

Select Evidence-Based Practice to retrieve articles from evidence-based practice journals (including Cochrane), as well as articles about evidence-based practice, research articles (including systematic reviews, clinical trials, meta analyses, qualitative studies), commentaries on research studies (applying practice to research), case studies if they meet the criteria of the use of research and/or evidence-based practice terms.

Related Links

PubMed at the UW

- Help, including videos
- <http://libguides.hsl.washington.edu/pubmed>

MyNCBI

- for saving searches and search results and creating automatic email alerts
- <http://libguides.hsl.washington.edu/myncbi>

CINAHL Plus (Nursing and Allied Health) Help Guide

- includes information on saving searches and creating alerts
- <http://libguides.hsl.washington.edu/cinahl>

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