PubMed® is the U.S. National Library of Medicine’s premiere search system for health information. It is available free on the Internet at [http://pubmed.gov](http://pubmed.gov).

### PubMed Content

- **MEDLINE®**: NLM’s database of millions of references to articles published in biomedical and related journals which have been fully indexed
- In-process citations that have not yet been analyzed and indexed for MEDLINE
- Publisher supplied citations that may not receive full indexing for MEDLINE because they are not biomedical in nature

### PubMed Searching

To search PubMed, type a single word or phrase into the query box then click on the Search button.

Combine search terms with connector words: “AND”, “OR” or “NOT” using upper case letters.

PubMed offers alternative searching options including the auto suggest drop down menu when entering words and an **Also Try** box available after a search.

**Details**, located above the search box on the Advanced Search page, provides information on how PubMed ran a search. PubMed looks first for the search words as MeSH terms, then journal titles, then authors and also searches “All Fields” for the words. **Details** shows how PubMed maps terms to MeSH headings. Changes to the search may be made in the box provided.

The **Limits** option is available from a link above the search box on all PubMed pages, including the homepage. Checkboxes may be selected for Type of Article, Languages, Subsets, Ages, Species (Humans or Animals), Sex, Dates, and Text Options. Restrict a search to items with links to full text, and make multiple choices within categories. Click the **Search** button after making selections to run the search. A “Limits Activated” message will appear above the search results list. Limits remain in effect until removed.

Adapted by CareSearch May 2011
Advanced Search

The Advanced Search link provides three options to refine and focus a search; Search Builder, Search History, and More Resources. The Advanced Search box always defaults to Clear, and does not retain previously run searches.

**Search Builder** allows creation of a search using Boolean operators. Using the All Fields selection will run search terms through the Automatic Term Mapping process, or a specific field may be selected to apply to the term. An index button is available to display the search field index and number of citations for each term in the search field. The Index display allows selection of multiple terms to “OR” together.

**Search History** tracks search statements and numbers them as links. Clicking on the numbered link provides a menu allowing search statements to be combined into a new search with the AND, OR or NOT connectors, or to be run, deleted, examined in Details, or saved in My NCBI.

**MeSH Database**

Articles are indexed using a powerful vocabulary, called Medical Subject Headings (MeSH). The MeSH Database provides the option of identifying appropriate MeSH terms for searches.

The **MeSH Database** is available under the “More Resources” sections of the PubMed homepage and Advanced Search page, or click “Resources”, then “Literature” at the top of the web page. Use this database to search for a particular term or concept. If multiple items are retrieved, click on the desired term to view and select subheadings and other options. Then click on the **Add to Search Builder** button on the right side of the screen. When finished adding terms, click **Search PubMed** to complete the search.