



PubMed Quick Start Guide

Introduction

PubMed provides free access to the MEDLINE database produced by the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM) (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/>). MEDLINE includes information from a wide range of sources covering the areas of allied health, biological and physical sciences, humanities and information science as they relate to medicine and health care, communication disorders, population biology, and reproductive biology. More than 8.7 million records (1966-) from more than 3,600 journals are indexed, plus selected monographs of congresses and symposia (1976-1981).

Help

PubMed provides online help pages, FAQs and a tutorial to aid you in your searching – you will find links to each under the “Entrez PubMed” heading in the main menu in the blue left-hand sidebar. If you encounter any problems using PubMed please contact the library enquiries service on +44 (0)20 7862 8478 (between 09.00 and 17.00 GMT), by email on external@shl.lon.ac.uk or by the enquiries form at <http://www.external.shl.lon.ac.uk/help/enquiries/index.asp>

Logging In

No username or password is needed to access PubMed – simply go to <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi> and start searching.

Searching PubMed

Enter your search terms in the query box at the top of the page and click on the **Go button**.

Search PubMed for Go

PubMed supports Boolean searching – Boolean operators should be entered in upper case letters. See our guide to advanced search techniques at http://external.uill.ac.uk/help/databases/advanced_searching.asp if you are not familiar with this powerful method of searching.



Clinical Queries – focus on evidence based medicine

The Clinical Queries section focuses your search on evidence-based medicine. Click on Clinical Queries on the blue sidebar. You then have two options (click on the radio button to select an option).

Clinical Queries using Research Methodology Filters

Category: therapy diagnosis etiology prognosis
Emphasis: sensitivity specificity

Systematic Reviews

Enter subject search:

- **Clinical Queries:**
 1. Choose from the sub sections **therapy, diagnosis, etiology, and prognosis.**
 2. Choose either “sensitivity” (for broad search matching – should find all relevant records but will also find some irrelevant ones) or “specificity” (to retrieve just relevant records, but possibly missing some relevant records).
 3. Enter your terms in the search box and click on the **Go** button.
- **Systematic Reviews:** includes systematic reviews, meta-analyses, reviews of clinical trials, evidence-based medicine, consensus development conferences, and guidelines.
 - Enter your terms in the search box and click on the **Go** button.

Viewing Search Results

After you click on the **Go** button, PubMed displays a list of results in a summary format. To view more information about your search results:

1. Select **Abstract, Citation, or MEDLINE** (a suitable format for export to reference management programs) from the pull-down menu next to the **Display** button.
2. Click on the **Display** button.

Related Articles

The related articles feature can help you conduct a comprehensive search on a topic, by finding articles covering similar subjects to you the articles you have found to be relevant to your search. To retrieve Related Articles, click on the **Related Articles** link to the right of each citation.



Saving Search Results

Clipboard – You can build a list of citations from one or more searches for later printing, saving, or e-mailing:

A button labeled "Send to" followed by a pull-down menu currently showing "Clipboard".

1. Click on the check box next to the citations you wish to add to the Clipboard.
2. Select **Clipboard** from the pull-down menu next to the **Send To** button.
3. Click on the **Send To** button.

To see your selected citations at any time, click on the Clipboard link on the Features Bar (just below the search box).

To save search results:

A button labeled "Send to" followed by a pull-down menu currently showing "File".

1. Select **File** from the pull-down menu next to the **Send To** button.
2. Click on the **Send To** button.
3. Select a location and filename for your records via your computer's "save" dialogue.

To save citations for citation management software, change the display format to MEDLINE before saving.

Printing & E-mailing

1. Select your citations using the tick boxes next to each citation or by retrieving your Clipboard list.
2. Select the display format from the drop-down menu next to the **Display** button.

A button labeled "Display" followed by a pull-down menu currently showing "Summary".

3. Select Text or E-mail from the pull-down menu next to the **Send To** button (Text will create a plain text version of your results)

A button labeled "Send to" followed by a pull-down menu currently showing "Text".A button labeled "Send to" followed by a pull-down menu currently showing "E-mail".

4. Click on the **Send To** button...
5. If you have opted to print, print the results using your web browser's Print feature
6. The email option will ask you to select additional options and enter an email address. It is safest to select text rather than HTML as the format for the email.

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