Boolean Worksheet: A Medline/PubMed search

**EXAMPLE:**

**Research Question:** Does handwashing among healthcare workers reduce hospital acquired infection?

**Recommended databases:**
- CINAHLPlus
- Medline (PubMed or Ovid)
- PsycINFO
- Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews
- JBI (Joanna Briggs Institute) EBP Database
- Scopus
- Web of Science
- Embase
- Proquest Central
- Dissertation Abstracts
- Other

For the sample search, we'll start in Medline/PubMed

**YOUR SEARCH**

**Research Question:**

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**SIMPLE KEYWORD SEARCH**

**Concept 1**
(Patient/Problem/Population?)
hospital acquired infection

**Concept 2**
(Intervention?)
handwashing

AND retrieves article citations with BOTH terms.

**TIP:** If you are searching a PICO(T) question, start with the "P" and "I" as your initial search terms.

**EXPANDED SEARCH**, adding MeSH and other keywords

**Concept 1**
hospital acquired infection
OR
cross infection
OR
nosocomial infection

**Concept 2**
handwashing
OR
hand hygiene
OR
hand disinfection

From initial search results, alternate terms/synonyms/MeSH subject terms may be retrieved for one or both concepts.

**OR** expands the search to find citations with ANY of the added terms. Remember: **OR** retrieves MORE!
A larger OR'd set of MeSH/keywords/synonyms may be recombined with AND to narrow a search.

**ADDING LIMITS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept 1</th>
<th>Concept 2</th>
<th>LIMITS (Type of study, Time, etc.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hospital acquired infection</td>
<td>(handwashing OR hand hygiene OR hand disinfection)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OR cross infection</td>
<td>OR hand hygiene</td>
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<td>OR nosocomial infection</td>
<td>OR hand</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Article type: randomized controlled trial</td>
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<td>Date: last 5 years</td>
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Add LIMITS for type of study, type of article, date, time factors, age group, etc. to restrict search results.

[TIP: For age group, use database limit to AGE GROUP rather than using key words like elderly or pediatric.]

**YOUR SEARCH with LIMITS**

<table>
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<td>Age Group:</td>
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**YOUR SEARCH**

Remember, LIMITS narrow your search results.