

## Boolean Worksheet: A Medline/PubMed Search

### Step 1: Choose **databases** that suit your research question

#### Sample Search

**Sample Research Question:** *Is a checklist an effective intervention for improving patient safety in operating rooms?*

#### Recommended Databases:

- ☒ CINAHLPlus
- ☒ **Medline (via PubMed or Ovid)**
- ☒ PsycINFO
- ☒ Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews
- ☐ JBI (Joanna Briggs Institute) EBP Database
- ☐ Scopus
- ☐ Web of Science
- ☐ Embase
- ☒ ProQuest Central
- ☒ Dissertations and Theses Global
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

For the sample search, we will start in PubMed

#### Your Search

**Your Research Question:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

#### Recommended Databases:

- ☐ CINAHLPlus
- ☐ Medline (via PubMed or Ovid)
- ☐ PsycINFO
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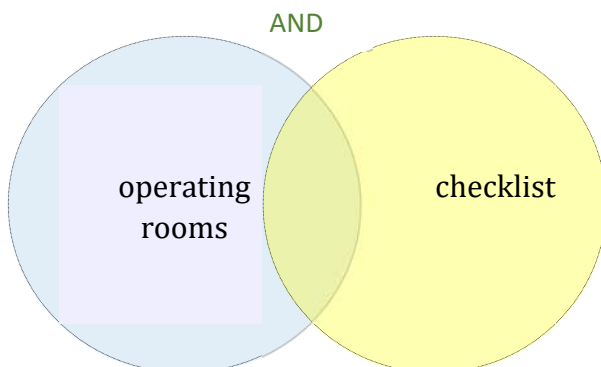
### Step 2: Perform a **simple keyword search**

Identify **keywords** that describe the important concepts in your research question. (For a PICO question, select keywords that describe your *patient, problem or population* and your chosen *intervention*)

#### Sample Keywords:

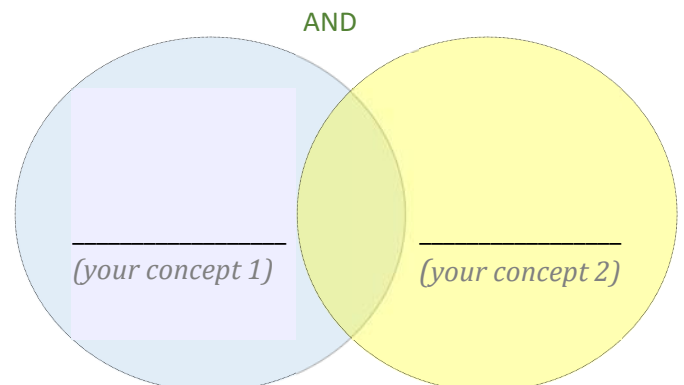
Concept 1 (Patient or Problem or Population)	Concept 2 (Intervention)
operating rooms	checklist

Connecting keywords with **AND** in the database search retrieves article citations that contain **both** terms.



#### Your Keywords:

Concept 1 (Patient or Problem or Population)	Concept 2 (Intervention)



### Step 3: **Expand** your search with MeSH terms and other synonyms

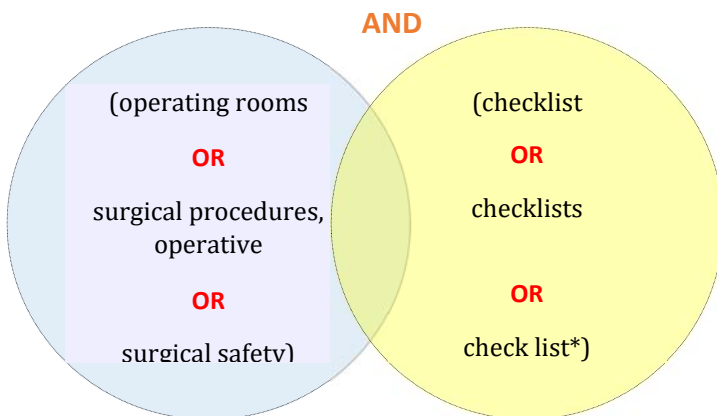
From the initial search results, retrieve alternate terms/synonyms/MeSH subject terms for one or both concepts.

Combining these terms with **OR** expands the search to find citations with ANY of the added terms (*Remember – OR retrieves MORE!*)

Sample Synonyms:

Concept 1	Concept 2
operating rooms	checklist
<b>OR</b>	<b>OR</b>
surgical procedures, operative	checklists
<b>OR</b>	<b>OR</b>
surgical safety	check list*

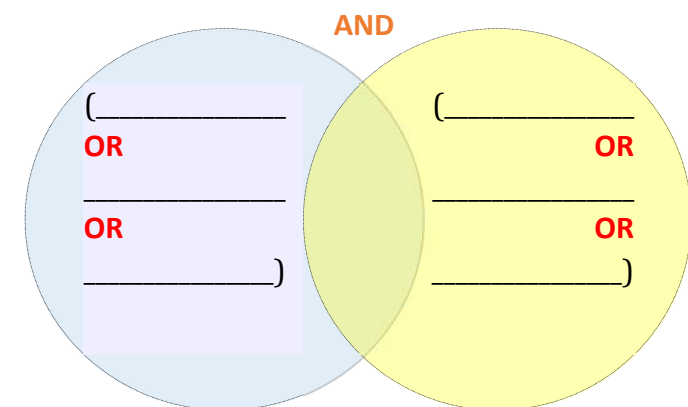
A larger OR'd set of MeSH/keywords/synonyms may be recombined with AND to narrow the search



Your Synonyms:

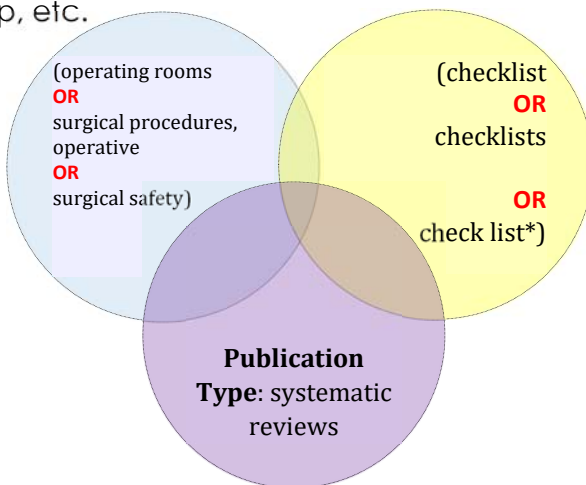
Your Concept 1	Your Concept 2
_____	_____
<b>OR</b>	<b>OR</b>
_____	_____
<b>OR</b>	<b>OR</b>
_____	_____

TIP: Remember to nest OR'd synonyms with **parentheses** in your database search – e.g. *(checklist OR checklists OR check list\*)*



### Step 4: Add **limits** to your results

Most databases allow you to add "limits" or "filters" that restrict search results by characteristics such as type of study, type of article, date, time factors, age group, etc.



In your search, look for database 'filters', limits' or 'refinements' to narrow your search.

You may want to consider how you can apply the following filters to best suit your research needs:

Article Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Language: \_\_\_\_\_

Age Group\*: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Pro Tip:* If you are looking for articles about a particular age group of patients, DON'T include terms like 'pediatric' or 'elderly' in your search. Instead, use the **age group** filter that is available in many databases