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

YOUR SEARCH

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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

YOUR EXPANDED SEARCH adding MeSH and other keywords

Concept 1
hospital acquired infection
OR

Concept 2
handwashing
OR

OR

OR

OR

OR

OR

OR

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 OR cross infection OR nosocomial infection)</td>
<td>(handwashing OR hand hygiene OR hand disinfection)</td>
<td>Article type: randomized controlled trial</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**YOUR SEARCH with LIMITS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Article type: randomized controlled trial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Date: last 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR...</td>
<td>OR...</td>
<td>Age Group:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**

- Remember, LIMITS narrow your search results.