Advanced PubMed® Searching
Resource Packet

Additional PubMed and NLM-related resources:


  Including Quick Tours, tutorial brochures: PubMed Basics; PubMed My NCBI; and Searching PubMed with MeSH;

Additional NN/LM Materials linked to PubMed

Drugs Information @ NLM: https://nnlm.gov/training/resources/drugstri.pdf
  MedlinePlus® for Health Professionals: https://nnlm.gov/trifolds/mp4hptri.pdf

National Network of Libraries of Medicine

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Reviewed and updated: December, 2017

This resource is freely available at: https://nnlm.gov/training/resources/pubmedpacket.pdf
### MeSH® Subheadings and Related Abbreviations

**Note:** Diagnostic Imaging (DG) replaces as a subheading Radiography, Radionuclide imaging and Ultrasonography. Please update any saved searches and alerts.

<table>
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<th>MeSH Subheading</th>
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PubMed® Qualifier Hierarchies / Families of Subheading Explosions

Searching on these subheadings searches the narrower subheadings as well. * are top level terms. Not all subheadings are available for all MeSH® terms.

### Adverse Effects-AE
- Poisoning-PO
- Toxicity-TO

### Analysis-AN
- Blood-BL
- Cerebrospinal fluid-CF
- Isolation & purification-IP
- Urine-UR

### *Anatomy & Histology-AH
- Blood Supply-BS
- Cytology-CY
- Ultrastructure-UL
- Embryology-EM
- Abnormalities-AB
- Innervation-IR
- Pathology-PA

### *Chemistry-CH
- Agonists-AG
- Analogs & derivatives-AA
- Antagonists & inhibitors-AI
- Chemical synthesis-SC

### Complications-CO
- Secondary-SC

### Cytology-CY
- Ultrastructure-UL

### *Diagnosis-DI
- Diagnostic imaging-DG

### Embryology-EM
- Abnormalities-AB

### Epidemiology-EP
- Ethnology-EH
- Mortality-MO

### *Etiology-ET
- Chemically induced-CI
- Complications-CO
- Secondary-SC
- Congenital-CN
- Embryology-EM
- Genetics-GE
- Immunology-IM
- Microbiology-MI
- Virology-VI
- Parasitology-PS
- Transmission-TM

### Metabolism-ME
- Biosynthesis-BI
- Blood-BL
- Cerebrospinal fluid-CF
- Deficiency-DF
- Enzymology-EN
- Pharmacokinetics-PK
- Urine-UR

### Microbiology-MI
- Virology-VI

### *Organization & administration -OG
- Economics-EC
- Legislation & jurisprudence-LJ
- Manpower-MA
- Standards-ST
- Supply & distribution-SD
- Trends-TD
- Utilization-UT

### Pharmacology-PD
- Administration & dosage-AD
- Adverse Effects-AE
- Poisoning-PO
- Toxicity-TO
- Agonists-AG
- Antagonists & inhibitors-AI
- Pharmacokinetics-PK

### *Physiology-PH
- Genetics-GE
- Growth & Development-GD
- Immunology-IM
- Metabolism-ME
- Biosynthesis-BI
- Blood-BL
- Cerebrospinal Fluid-CF
- Deficiency-DF
- Enzymology-EN
- Pharmacokinetics-PK
- Urine-UR
- Physiopathology-PP
- Secretion-SE

### *Statistics & numerical data-SN
- Epidemiology-EP
- Ethnology-EH
- Mortality-MO
- Supply & distribution-SD
- Utilization-UT

### Surgery-SU
- Transplantation-TR

### Additional and non-exploding subheadings:
- classification-CL
- drug effects-DE
- education-ED
- ethics-ES
- history-HI
- injuries-IN
- instrumentation-IS
- methods-MT
- pathogenicity-PY
- psychology-PX
- radiation effects-RE
- veterinary-VE

Available at: [https://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/subhierarchy.html](https://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/subhierarchy.html) with links to definitions.
PubMed® Subset Searching

**Topic and Filter Subsets**

*Available subset search terms (use [sb])*

- aids [sb] – AIDS**
- bioethics [sb] – Bioethics**
- cancer [sb] – Cancer**
- cam [sb] – Complementary Medicine**
- dietsuppl [sb] – Dietary Supplements**
- effectiveness [sb] – Comparative Effectiveness Research
- history [sb] – History of Medicine**
- medline [sb] – MEDLINE® ***
- reportresearch [sb] – Research Reporting Guidelines and Initiatives
- space [sb] – Space Life Sciences
- systematic [sb] – Systematic Reviews*, **
- tox [sb] – Toxicology**
- veterinary [sb] – Veterinary Science**

*Additional Special Queries*

- ALTBIB – Alternatives bibliography
- CAM on PubMed
- Clinical Queries
- Comparative Effectiveness Research
- Electronic Health Records
- Health Disparities
- Health Literacy
- Health Services Research (HSR) Queries
- Healthy People 2020
- MedlinePlus Health Topics
- National Institutes of Health Funding Support
- Population Health
- Retracted Publication*
- Smallpox
- TOXNET

(Also available as a filter under: *Article types, **Subjects, and/or ***Journal categories)


**Journal/Citation Subsets**

For the following, use jsubsetcode without the [sb]; e.g. jsubsetk

**Code** | **Description**
--- | ---
AIM | *** Abridged Index Medicus - list created 20 years ago and includes 119 core clinical English language journals; corresponds to "Core clinical journals" filter under Journal categories
D | *** Dentistry journals (also available as a filter under Journal Categories)
E | Citations from bioethics journals or selected bioethics citations from other journals
H | Health administration journals, non-Index Medicus
IM | Index Medicus journals
K | Consumer health journals, non-Index Medicus
N | *** Nursing journals (also available as a filter under Journal Categories)
OM | OLDMEDLINE citations from the Cumulated Index Medicus (CIM) and the Current List of Medical Literature (CLML) - 1947-1965 (plus some earlier) - not available in NLM Catalog
Q | History of medicine journals and selected citations from other journals
QIS | Citations from non-Index Medicus journals in the field of history of medicine
S | Citations from space life sciences journals and selected citations from other journals
T | Health technology assessment journals, non-Index Medicus
X | AIDS/HIV journals (selected citations from other journals 1980-2000)

(***Available as a filter under Journal categories)


**More: Selected Subsets and Filters**

all [sb] – All citations in PubMed
free full text [sb] – Citations which include links to free full text articles (also filter under Text availability)
hasabstract or hasstructuredabstract – Citations with abstracts or structured abstracts (no [sb])
has-user-comments [sb] – Comments added by participants of PubMed Commons
loprovmedlib [sb] – LinkOut holdings in medical library, e.g. loprovuiclib [sb]; see provider names and abbreviations at: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/linkout/journals/htmllists.cgi?type_id=6
pubmed pmc [sb] or loprovpmc [sb] – Free full-text article available in PMC (formerly PubMed Central)
pubmed pubmed pmh cited [sb] – Citations cited in PubMed Health

## Citation Status Tags and Search Terms

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<td>Citation as supplied by publisher, not yet indexed (may be an E-Pub ahead of print)</td>
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<td>E-Pub - citations available in advance of journal issue's print release (no [sb])</td>
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<td>Citation from a MEDLINE journal in the review process</td>
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<td>Processed, not indexed for MEDLINE</td>
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<td>PubMed</td>
<td>Author manuscript or publisher-supplied citation from non-MEDLINE journal submitted PMC under the NIH Public Access Policy (no [sb])</td>
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</table>

### pmcbook
- pmcbooktitle
- pmcbookchapter

Citations of books and book chapters available on the Bookshelf (no [sb]) – Books on the PubMed drop-down Menu

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## Publication Types Found in PubMed®

In addition to the Clinical Queries search, use bolded publication types for evidence-based medicine (EBM) searches. For the following, use [publication type] OR [PT]; e.g. clinical trial [pt] (also available as a Filter, under Article types)

For an EBM search, also consider: epidemiologic studies [mh]

Addresses
Adaptive Clinical Trial
Autobiography
Bibliography
Biography
Case Reports
Classical Article (republished)
Clinical Conference (reports of clinical case conferences)
Clinical Study
Clinical Trial (all types/phases)
Clinical Trial, phase I
Clinical Trial, phase II
Clinical Trial, phase III
Clinical Trial, phase IV
Collected Works
Comment
Comparative Study
Conferences
Controlled Clinical Trial
Consensus Development … Conference
Consensus Development Conference, NIH
Corrected and Republished Article
Dataset
Dictionary
Directory
Duplicate Publication
Editorial
Equivalence Trial
Evaluation Studies
Expression of Concern
Festschrift
Government Publications
Guideline (administrative or procedural)
Historical Article
Interactive Tutorial
Interview
Introductory Journal Article
Journal Article (excludes letter, editorial, news, etc.)
Lectures
Legal Cases
Legislation
Letter
Meta-Analysis
Multicenter Study
News (medical or scientific)
Newspaper Article
Observational Study
Overall (collection of articles)
Patient Education Handout
Periodical Index
Personal Narratives
Practice Guideline (health care)
Pragmatic Clinical Trial
Publication Components
Publication Formats
Publication Type Category
Published Erratum
Randomized Controlled Trial
Research Support
Retracted Publication
Retraction of Publication (author’s statement)
Review
Scientific Integrity Review (US)
Study Characteristics
Support of Research
Technical Report
Twin Study
Validation Studies
Video-Audio Media
Webscasts


Complete list of types and links to definitions of terms: https://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/pubtypes.html

Publication Characteristics in the Mesh Tree: https://meshb.nlm.nih.gov/search

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK3827/table/pubmedhelp.T.status_subsets/ and
## Search Field Descriptions and Tags

And related MEDLINE®/PubMed® Data Element (Field) Descriptions; Capitalization not required

### Date Searching

(Use: YYYY/MM/DD where month and day are optional)

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* Defaults to publication date for records entering PubMed more than one year after publication date.

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(See [https://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/grant_acronym.html](https://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/grant_acronym.html))

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<td>Secondary source databanks and accession numbers (e.g. clinicaltrials.gov [si])</td>
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<td>Chemical, protocol or disease terms; this search does not explode, but synonyms are mapped</td>
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<td>Volume number of the journal</td>
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</table>

PubMed® Stopwords

(Words ignored by PubMed even in “quoted phrases”, unless those phrases are a MeSH term or known to PubMed)

A a, about, again, all, almost, also, although, always, among, an, and, another, any, are, as, at
B be, because, been, before, being, between, both, but, by
C can, could
D did, do, does, done, due, during
E each, either, enough, especially, etc
F for, found, from, further
H had, has, have, having, here, how, however
I i, if, in, into, is, it, its, itself
J just
K kg, km
M made, mainly, make, may, mg, might, ml, mm, most, mostly, must
N nearly, neither, no, nor
O obtained, of, often, on, our, overall
P perhaps, pmid
Q quite
R rather, really, regarding
S seem, seen, several, should, show, showed, shown, shows, significantly, since, so, some, such
T than, that, the, their, theirs, them, then, there, therefore, these, they, this, those, through, thus, to
U upon, use, used, using
V various, very
W was, we, were, what, when, which, while, with, within, without, would

Searching for PubMed Journals in the NLM Catalog


General Information

Access the NLM Catalog from
- Journals in NCBI Databases link on the PubMed homepage
- Or from NLM Catalog in the drop-down menu of the NCBI (PubMed) Search box

Recommended: when searching for journals to send to PubMed:
- Check the PubMed journals under PubMed/PMC journals in the left navigation filters menu
- Or use the search tag: nlmcatalog pubmed [sb]

Journal Subsets and Broad Subject Terms

In addition to searching by a specific journal name, two subset options are available:
- Identify journals by using an existing Journal Subset (e.g. jsubsetd)
  Use AIM, D, E, H, IM, K, N, Q, QIS, S, T, or X, with jsubsetcode
  For more information, visit: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK3799/table/catalog.T.journal_subsets/

- Use Broad Subject Terms [ST]: Subject terms are assigned by NLM to MEDLINE journals to describe the journal's overall scope (e.g., cardiology, genetics); Not all journals have subject terms
  - Access the Broad Subject Terms list for Indexed Journals:
    - From the direct Broad Subject Terms link on the NLM Catalog homepage
    - Or directly at: https://wwwcf.nlm.nih.gov/serials/journals/
    - Or use the NLM Catalog Advanced Search Builder drop-down menu under the Advanced link
  - Or use a known subject term code (e.g. cardiology[st] or cell biology [st]) in the search

Note: Access the Consumer health topic from Show additional filters, Publication Type; this subset includes part of jsubsetk with additional journals that are not currently indexed for MEDLINE.

Status Search Codes

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<th>Filter/Subset</th>
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<th>NLM Catalog tag</th>
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<td>*Journals referenced in the NCBI databases (including PubMed)</td>
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<td>nlmcatalog pubmed [sb]</td>
<td>*PubMed journals</td>
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<td>*Journals currently indexed for MEDLINE</td>
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<td>reportedmedline</td>
<td>*Journals currently or previously indexed in MEDLINE</td>
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<td>journalspmc</td>
<td>*Journals currently in PMC</td>
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<td>journalspmcforthcoming</td>
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*Available as a filter under Journal subsets, click Customize to see all options.


Journal resources include:

- Specifically for publishers