

## MEDLINE Indexing Practices:

**Checktags:** Several MeSH headings are indexed routinely in every article by indexers. These are called "checktags" and are concepts of potential interest, regardless of the general subject content of the article.

|                   |          |                         |
|-------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| Animal            | Human    | Support-Non-US-Govt     |
| Case-Report       | In-Vitro | Support-US-Govt-Non-PHS |
| Comparative-Study | Male     | Support-US-Govt-PHS     |
| Female            |          |                         |

### Age group checktags:

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Adult             | Child            |
| Aged              | Adolescence      |
| Aged, 80 and over | Child, Preschool |
| Frail Elderly     | Infant           |
| Middle Age        | Infant, Newborn+ |

### Selected subheadings/ Subheading groups:

|                             |                               |                             |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Analysis (group)            | History                       | Physiology (group)          |
| Anatomy & Histology (group) | Injuries                      | Psychology                  |
| Chemistry (group)           | Instrumentation               | Statistics & Numerical Data |
| Classification              | Methods                       | Epidemiology                |
| Diagnosis                   | Organization & Administration | Ethnology                   |
| Pathology                   | Economics                     | Mortality                   |
| Radiography                 | Legislation & Jurisprudence   | Therapeutic Use             |
| Radionuclide Imaging        | Manpower                      | Administration & Dosage     |
| Ultrasonography             | Standards                     | Adverse Effects             |
| Education                   | Supply & Distribution         | Contraindications           |
| Etiology                    | Trends                        | Poisoning                   |
| Chemically Induced          | Utilization                   | <b>Therapy</b>              |
| Complications               | Pharmacology                  | Diet Therapy                |
| Secondary                   | Administration & Dosage       | Drug Therapy                |
| Congenital                  | Adverse Effects               | Nursing                     |
| Embryology                  | Poisoning                     | Prevention & Control        |
| Genetics                    | Toxicity                      | Radiotherapy                |
| Immunology                  | Contraindications             | Rehabilitation              |
| Microbiology                | Diagnostic Use                | Surgery                     |
| Parasitology                | Pharmacokinetics              | Transplantation             |
| Transmission                |                               |                             |

**MEDLINE Publication types:** The Publication Type field contains a term characterizing the nature of the information or the manner in which it is conveyed.

|                                   |                           |                             |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Abstract                          | Editorial                 | Practice-Guideline          |
| Bibliography                      | English-Abstract          | Published-Erratum           |
| Classical-Article                 | Festschrift               | Randomized-Controlled-Trial |
| Clinical-Conference               | Guideline                 | Retracted-Publication       |
| Clinical-Trial                    | Historical-Article        | Retraction-of-Publication   |
| Clinical-Trial-Phase-I            | Historical-Biography      | Review                      |
| Clinical-Trial-Phase-II           | Interview                 | Consensus Development       |
| Clinical-Trial-Phase-III          | Journal-Article           | Conference                  |
| Clinical-Trial-Phase-IV           | Legal-Brief               | Consensus Development       |
| Comment                           | Letter                    | Conference, NIH Review-     |
| Consensus-Development-Conference  | Meeting-Report            | Literature                  |
| Consensus-Development-Conference- | Meta-Analysis             | Review-of-Reported-Cases    |
| NIH                               | Monograph                 | Review-Academic             |
| Controlled-Clinical-Trial         | Multicenter-Study         | Review-Multicase            |
| Corrected-and-Republished-Article | News                      | Review-Tutorial             |
| Current-Biog-Obit                 | Newspaper-Article         | Scientific-Integrity-Review |
| Dictionary                        | Overall                   | Technical-Report            |
| Directory                         | Patient Education Handout | Twin-Study                  |
| Duplicate-Publication             | Periodical-Index          |                             |

### MEDLINE Subsets

#### Journal

**Core Clinical Journals** – formerly Abridged IM

Dental

**Nursing**

**Topical (selected)**

AIDS [sb]

Bioethics [sb]

Cancer [sb]

Complimentary Medicine – cam [sb]

Consumer Health – jsubsetk

Health Care Administration – jsubshet

History of Medicine – history [sb]

“Systematic Reviews” – systematic [sb]

Toxicology – tox [sb]

## CINAHL indexing practices

**Checktags** are subject headings that represent population groups. The appropriate checktags are added to every indexed article and are generally assigned as minor headings.

|                                    |                         |                               |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Fetus - conception to birth        | Child 6-12 years        | Aged, 80 and over – 80+ years | Inpatients        |
| Infant, newborn - birth to 1 month | Adolescence 13-18 years | years                         | Outpatients       |
| Infant 1-23 months                 | Adults 19-44 years      | Male                          | <b>All Infant</b> |
| Child, Preschool 2-5 years         | Middle Age 45-64 years  | Female                        | <b>All Child</b>  |
|                                    | Aged 65 - 79 years      | Pregnancy                     | <b>All Adult</b>  |

**Subheadings** appear in two different places in a record, the Descriptors (DE) field, appended to headings, and the Subheadings (SH) field. In the SH field, subheadings are stripped from their main headings and can be searched independently. There are two types of subheadings in CINAHL, Age Group and Topical.

### Age Group subheadings

|                             |                  |             |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| IA In-Adolescence           | IM In-Middle-Age | IU In-Utero |
| ID In-Adulthood             | IO In-Old-Age    |             |
| II In-Infancy-and-Childhood | IP In-Pregnancy  |             |

### Topical subheadings

|                               |                                  |                           |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| AB Abnormalities              | EP Epidemiology                  | PH Physiology             |
| AM Administration             | ES Equipment-and-Supplies        | PP Physiopathology        |
| AD Administration-and-Dosage  | EI Ethical Issues                | PO Poisoning              |
| AE Adverse-Effects            | EH Ethnology                     | PC Prevention-and-Control |
| AA Analogs and Derivatives    | ET Etiology                      | PR Prognosis              |
| AN Analysis                   | EV Evaluation                    | PF Psychosocial-Factors   |
| AH Anatomy-and-Histology      | FG Familial-and-Genetic          | RE Radiation-Effects      |
| AI Antagonists-and-Inhibitors | HI History                       | RA Radiography            |
| BL Blood                      | IM Immunology                    | RT Radiotherapy           |
| CI Chemically-Induced         | IN Injuries                      | RH Rehabilitation         |
| CL Classification             | IR Innervation                   | RF Risk Factors           |
| CO Complications              | LJ Legislation-and-Jurisprudence | ST Standards              |
| CT Contraindications          | MA Manpower                      | SU Surgery                |
| DF Deficiency                 | ME Metabolism                    | SS Symptoms               |
| DI Diagnosis                  | MT Methods                       | TU Therapeutic-Use        |
| DU Diagnostic-Use             | MI Microbiology                  | TH Therapy                |
| DH Diet-Therapy               | MO Mortality                     | TM Transmission           |
| DE Drug-Effects               | NU Nursing                       | TR Transplantation        |
| DT Drug-Therapy               | OG Organizations                 | TD Trends                 |
| EC Economics                  | PA Pathology                     | US Ultrasonography        |
| ED Education                  | PD Pharmacodynamics              | UR Urine                  |
| EM Embryology                 | PK Pharmacokinetics              | UT Utilization            |

### Publication Types

The Publication Type field can contain one or more of the following terms. Hyphenate multi-word terms when searching. Bolded publication types only in CINAHL Plus

|                      |                                     |                        |                                |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Abstract             | Consumer-Patient-Teaching-Materials | Legal-Cases            | Research-Instrument            |
| Accreditation        | Corrected-Article                   | Letter                 | Research-Term-Definition       |
| Algorithm            | Critical-Path                       | Masters-Thesis (98)    | Response                       |
| Anecdote             | Diagnostic-Images                   | Nurse-Practice-Acts    | Review                         |
| Audiovisual          | Directories                         | Nursing-Diagnoses      | <b>Search-Strategy</b>         |
| Bibliography         | Doctoral Dissertation (98)          | Nursing-Interventions  | Software                       |
| Biography            | (replaces dissertation)             | Obituary               | Standards                      |
| Book                 | Drugs                               | Other                  | Statistics                     |
| Book-Chapter         | Editorial                           | Overall                | Systematic-Review              |
| Brief Item           | Equations-and-Formulas              | Pamphlet               | Tables-Charts                  |
| Care-Plan            | <b>Evidence-Based-Care-Sheet</b>    | Pamphlet-Chapter       | Teaching-Materials             |
| Cartoon              | Exam-Questions                      | Pictorial              | Tracings                       |
| Case-Study           | Forms                               | Poetry                 | Website                        |
| CEU                  | Games                               | Practice-Acts          | Advice-and-Referral-Website    |
| Classification-Term  | Glossary                            | Practice-Guidelines    | Chat-Groups                    |
| Clinical-Innovations | Historical-Material                 | Proceedings            | Commercial-Website             |
| Clinical-Trial       | Interview                           | Protocol               | Individual-Testimonial-Website |
| Code-of-Ethics       | Journal-Article                     | Questionnaire-Scale    | Information -Website           |
| Commentary           | Journal-Description                 | Questions-and- Answers | Listservs                      |
| Computer-Program     |                                     | <b>Quick Lesson</b>    |                                |
|                      |                                     | Research               |                                |

## **CINAHLSubsets**

The SB field contains one or more of the following codes, representing a subset of journals. You can search with the two-letter abbreviation or the full name. Subsets are added by journal title and are retrospective to the beginning of the indexing for that journal. The peer-review subset can be used as a quality filter. However, this designation is based on publisher's statements and reflects a wide variety of peer review practices. Some titles considered high quality are not peer reviewed.

| <b>Topical</b>                      | <b>Country of Publication</b>    | <b>Peer Review Status</b>  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Allied Health                       | Africa                           | Peer Reviewed              |
| Alternative/Complementary Therapies | Asia                             | Blind Peer Reviewed        |
| Biomedical                          | Australia & New Zealand          | Double Blind Peer Reviewed |
| Computer/Information Science        | Canada                           | Editorial Board Reviewed   |
| Consumer Health                     | Europe                           | Expert Peer Review         |
| Core Nursing                        | Mexico and Central/South America |                            |
| Health Services Administration      | United Kingdom and Ireland       |                            |
| Health Promotion/Education          | United States                    |                            |
| Nursing                             |                                  |                            |
| Public Health                       |                                  |                            |

## **Specific Interest Categories** (Added in 1998)

|                           |                                  |                                     |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Advanced Nursing Practice | Men's Health                     | Pediatric Care                      |
| Case Management           | Military/Uniformed Services      | Perioperative Care                  |
| Chiropractic Care         | Nursing Administration           | Physical Therapy                    |
| Consumer Health           | Nursing Education                | Psychiatry/Psychology               |
| Critical Care             | Nursing Language/ Classification | Public Health                       |
| Dental Care               | Nutrition                        | Quality Assurance                   |
| Emergency Care            | Obstetric Care                   | Social Work                         |
| Evidence-Based Practice   | Occupational Therapy             | Speech-Language Pathology/Audiology |
| Gerontologic Care         | Oncologic Care                   | Sports Medicine                     |
| Home Health Care          | Pain and Pain Management         | Women's Health                      |
| Hospice/Palliative Care   | Patient Safety                   | Wound Care                          |
| Informatics               |                                  |                                     |

**Note:** Categories are added retrospectively (1997- ) to journals based on their content. In addition, categories are assigned at the article level at the time of indexing, beginning with the year they are added.

## Nursing and Allied Health Search Strategy Planner

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|--|
| 1. What is your question?  |
| 2. Analyze the question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intervention/action</li><li>• Desired outcome</li><li>• Patient population, if clinical</li></ul> |
| 3. Select possible subject headings and subheadings<br><u>CINAHL</u> <u>MeSH</u>   |
| 4. Run subject search – use AND, OR & Explode as appropriate   |
| 5. Limit results (English, human or age group, sex, timeframe, subsets, CINAHL Specific Interest)  |
| 6. Modify search – broaden or narrow as needed   |
| 7. Search in other databases – list choices  |