Definitions of Evidence-Based Publication Types in MEDLINE and PubMed, in alphabetical order

If you need help searching for Evidence-Based articles in MEDLINE or PubMed, try the Searching MEDLINE with Full Text for NURS 2873 or Searching PubMed for NURS 2873 handouts.

CLINICAL STUDY, note: only available in PubMed
♦ A work that reports on the results of a research study to evaluate interventions or exposures on biomedical or health-related outcomes.

CLINICAL TRIAL
♦ A work that reports on the results of a clinical study in which participants are assigned (determined by the study protocol) to receive one or more interventions (diagnostic, therapeutic, or prophylactic drugs, devices, or techniques) so that researchers can evaluate the interventions for safety, efficacy, optimum dosage schedule, and additional data.

COMPARATIVE STUDY
♦ Comparison of outcomes, results, responses, etc. for different techniques, therapeutic approaches or other inputs.

CONTROLLED CLINICAL TRIAL
♦ A work that reports on a clinical trial involving one or more test treatments (drugs, devices, or procedures studied for diagnostic, therapeutic, or prophylactic effectiveness), at least one control treatment (placebos, active medicine, no-treatment, dosage forms and regimens, historical comparisons, etc.), specified outcome measures for evaluating the studied intervention, and a bias-free method for assigning patients to the test treatment.

Note: When randomization using mathematical techniques is employed to assign patients to test or control treatments, the trial is characterized as a RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL

EVALUATION STUDY
♦ Studies determining the effectiveness or utility of processes, personnel, and equipment.

GUIDELINE
♦ Work consisting of a set of statements, directions, or principles presenting current or future rules or policy; Generally a comprehensive guide to problems and approaches in any discipline or activity.
♦ Guidelines may be developed by government agencies at any level, institutions, organizations such as professional societies or governing boards, or by the convening of expert panels.
♦ This concept relates to the general conduct and administration of health care activities rather than to specific decisions for a particular clinical condition. For that aspect, see PRACTICE GUIDELINE

META-ANALYSIS
♦ Studies using a quantitative method of combining the results of independent studies (usually drawn from the published literature) and synthesizing summaries and conclusions which may be used to evaluate therapeutic effectiveness, plan new studies, etc.
PRACTICE GUIDELINE

- A set of directions or principles to assist the health care practitioner with patient care decisions about appropriate diagnostic, therapeutic, or other clinical procedures for specific clinical circumstances.
- Practice guidelines may be developed by government agencies at any level, institutions, organizations such as professional societies or governing boards, or by the convening of expert panels.
- They can provide a foundation for assessing and evaluating the quality and effectiveness of health care in terms of measuring improved health, reduction of variation in services or procedures performed, and reduction of variation in outcomes of health care delivered.

PRAGMATIC CLINICAL TRIAL, note: only available in PubMed

- Works about randomized clinical trials that compare interventions in clinical settings and which look at a range of effectiveness outcomes and impacts.

RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL

- A work that reports on a clinical trial that involves at least one test treatment and one control treatment, concurrent enrollment and follow-up of the test- and control-treated groups, and in which the treatments to be administered are selected by a random process, such as the use of a random-numbers table.

REVIEW

- An article or book published after examination of published material on a subject. It may be comprehensive to various degrees and the time range of material scrutinized may be broad or narrow.

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW, note: only available in PubMed

- A review of a clearly formulated question that uses systematic and explicit methods to identify, select, and critically appraise relevant research, and to collect and analyze data from the studies that are included in the review.

TWIN STUDY


VALIDATION STUDY

- Works consisting of research using processes by which the reliability and relevance of a procedure for a specific purpose are established.

References