Filtered Information/Resources
Filtered resources appraise the quality of studies and often make recommendations for practice.

Systematic Reviews
An article in which the authors have asked a specific clinical question, systematically searched for, appraised, and summarized all of the medical literature, including eliminating the poorly done studies, in an attempt to make practice recommendations for a specified topic.

Meta-Analysis
A subset of systematic reviews that uses quantitative methods to synthesize and summarize the results.

Critically-Appraised Topics
Evaluate and synthesize multiple research studies on a topic; created to answer a specific clinical question.

Critically-Appraised Individual Articles
Evaluate and synopsize individual research studies.

Unfiltered Information/Resources
Evidence is not always available via filtered resources. Searching the primary literature may be required. You are the appraiser for quality of information when it comes to unfiltered resources.

Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs)
Randomized controlled trials are the studies commonly used to support systematic reviews. Participants are randomly allocated into an experimental group or control group and followed over time for the variables & outcomes of interest.

Cohort Studies
Involves the identification of a defined group of people (the cohort) is followed overtime. The outcomes of patients within subsets of the cohort are compared, to examine those who are exposed or not exposed to a particular intervention or other factor of interest.

Case-Controlled Studies
A study that compares people with a specific disease or outcome of interest (cases) to people from the same population without that disease or outcome (controls), and which seeks to find associations between the outcome and prior exposure to particular risk factors.

Case Series/Reports
A study reporting observations on a series of individuals, usually all receiving the same intervention, with no control group.

Background Information/Expert Opinion
This information can be found in textbooks, web resources, or products that synthesize a topic. Evidence in these resources may vary from expert opinion to high levels of evidence.
Publication Types in Order by Strength of Evidence, for CINAHL, MEDLINE, & PubMed

CINAHL
Publication Types in Order by Strength of Evidence

- Systematic Review
- Meta Analysis
- Meta Synthesis
- Standards
- Practice Guidelines
- Review
- Randomized Controlled Trial
- Research
- Clinical Trial
- Case Study

MEDLINE & PubMed
Publication Types in Order by Strength of Evidence

- Systematic Reviews
- Meta-Analyses
- Randomized Controlled Trial
- Multicenter Study
- Clinical Trial
- Pragmatic Clinical Trial
- Controlled Clinical Trial
- Validation Study
- Twin Study
- Comparative Study
- Clinical Study
- Evaluation Study
- Review
- Guideline
- Practice Guideline
- Government Publications
- Case Reports
- Consensus Development Conference, NIH
- Consensus Development Conference

References

Questions? Ask a Librarian!
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Delaware Campus: The Learning Center, Moeller Hall  Service Desk: 740.203.8183
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