Searching the Nursing Research Literature: A Workshop

Created and Presented by:
Ken Wright, MSLS
Health Sciences Librarian
ktwright@mchs.com | 614-234-5222
Introduction

This workshop includes self-learning demonstrations on how to effectively search 4 databases located on the Mount Carmel Health Sciences Library Nursing Resources page (https://library.mchs.com/nurses)

Demonstrations include:

- Formulating a focused, “searchable” question based on the P.I.C.O.(T.) elements used for searching the literature
- Choosing effective terms to search and retrieve research literature including the use of CINAHL Headings and MeSH terms (Medical Subject Headings)
- Searching CINAHL using Advanced Search features including Full-Text Finder to locate Academic Peer-Reviewed articles in PDF format
- Searching 3 additional databases: ClinicalKey for Nursing, Lippincott Advisor (Health Library), and PubMed’s Clinical Queries to find research articles using effective keyword searches
Formulate a **P.I.C.O.(T.)** before searching the nursing literature.

Use the grid below to construct a question based on the **P.I.C.O.(T.)** elements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>E L E M E N T S</strong></th>
<th><strong>Details</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>P- Patient population or problem</strong></td>
<td>What patient population or problem are you trying to address?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I- Intervention or issue of interest</strong></td>
<td>What will you do for the patient or problem?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C- Comparison with another intervention or issue</strong></td>
<td>Alternative (or placebo) to your chosen intervention? (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>O-Outcome of interest</strong></td>
<td>What will be improved for the patient or problem?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T-Time (Not always appropriate)</strong></td>
<td>Duration of intervention</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Formulating a P.I.C.O.(T.) Question

Clinical Scenario:

A nurse in an intensive care unit is taking care of a man with dementia. She needs to find research that can help her determine if observation is more effective than other instruments used in assessing pain in patients with dementia.

“P.I.C.O.” is a systematic way to formulate a question based upon the elements:

P = Patient, population or problem:
(Patients with dementia)

I = Intervention or exposure:
(Observation)

C = Comparison or placebo:
(Other pain assessment methods)

O = Outcome:
(More effective pain measure)

After choosing the P.I.C.O. elements ask a focused question:
Searching P.I.C.O.(T.) using **CINAHL**

Based on the P.I.C.O.(T.) elements the question is:

“In patients with **dementia**, is **observation** more effective than other methods for accurately **measuring pain**?”

After formulating a P.I.C.O.(T.) question select **CINAHL** from the **Nursing Resources** page: [https://library.mchs.com/nurses](https://library.mchs.com/nurses) and begin a search using the P.I.C.O.(T.) elements that represent the topic.
“In patients with dementia, is observation more effective than other methods for accurately measuring pain?”

Note: Formulating a P.I.C.O.(T.) helps define and shape your question as well as provide relevant terms for searching and retrieving articles. Unlike Google, databases such as CINAHL have “limiters” or “refiners” designed for more consistent and relevant searches, including access to reliable research, guidelines and other high level studies.

For best results enter terms separately in the search boxes.

Use “AND” to find articles that contain ALL 3 elements of the P.I.C.O.(T.)

After entering all 3 elements, search the CINAHL database.
**CINAHL Search Results: Refine**

**Dementia AND Observation AND Pain Measurement**

Use the **Refine Results** option on the left side menu to select **Academic Journals**.

Click on an article title to view a **Detailed Record** that includes access to Full-Text PDF and other helpful information.
**CINAHL Detailed Records**

Detailed Records are very helpful in determining relevancy of an article to a specific P.I.C.O.(T.) topic and save time by providing important information about an article’s content.

The majority of articles indexed in CINAHL are critiqued by experts in their field and go through a Peer Review process before they are published in journals. Peer Reviewed articles are also likely to be more reliable and less biased than non-peer reviewed articles.

View Major and Minor Subjects in each Detailed Record and use them for conducting additional database searches. Standardized terms like Major Subjects are indexed to help make your search results more consistent and relevant.

**Example Article Details**

**Authors:** Herges AL; Elliott AF; Marsiske M

**Affiliation:** Department of Adult and Elderly Nursing, University of Florida; College of Nursing, Gainesville, Florida

**Source:** Journal of the American Geriatrics Society (J AM GERIATR SOC), Jan 2000; 57(1): 126-132. (7p)

**Publication Type:** Journal Article - research, tables/charts

**Language:** English

**Major Subjects:** Behavioral Symptoms; Dementia – Comorbid; Mental Status; Pain Measures; Self Report

**Minor Subjects:** Aged; Aged, 80 and Over; Florida; Funding Sources; Male; M Coefficient; Post Hoc Analysis; Prescribing Patterns; Protocols; Quasi-Experimental Studies; Reference

**Abstract:** OBJECTIVES: To investigate the relationship between self-report and behavioral indicators of pain in older adults. SETTING: Data were collected from residents of nursing homes, assisted living, and residential age 83; 84 cognitively intact, 62 cognitively impaired. MEASUREMENTS: Pain interviews (pain presents analgesic medications, and demographic characteristics. Participants completed a pain-based pro analgesics, cognitively impaired participants reported less pain than cognitively intact participants who were impaired. Total number of pain behaviors was significantly related to self-reported pain in impaired elderly people. Peer Review less pain than cognitively intact elderly people. Independent of age the groups. The relationship between self-report and pain behaviors supports the validity of behavioral assessment in persons with dementia.

**Journal Subset:** Biomedical; Peer Reviewed; USA

**Special Interest:** Gerontologic Care, Pain and Pain Management

**Instrumentation:** Mini-Mental Status Examination (MMSE) (Folstein et al) McGill Pain Questionnaire Structured Pain Interview (SPI) Pain Behavior Measure [modified]
Many articles are immediately available in PDF full-text through the MCHSL online journal collection. If the PDF Full-Text icon is not available for immediate access, select EBSCO’s Full-Text Finder to open a new window that has a link to the PDF Full-Text article.
After selecting **Full-Text Finder**, a new window will include a link to the PDF icon and full-text article.
Requesting Articles

Not all articles are accessible in PDF full-text through the library’s online journal collection. In such cases click on the Full Text Finder option and fill out an Interlibrary Loan Form OR go to the library website at: https://library.mchs.com and click on Library Services and Request Article(s).

After clicking on Full-Text Finder a new window will appear with the ILL Form.
Searching Additional Databases

“In patients with dementia, is observation more effective than other methods for accurately measuring pain?”

Note: The examples in the next 3 databases are demonstrated using a simple keyword search approach based upon the P.I.C.O.(T.) elements. The databases searched are: ClinicalKey for Nursing, Lippincott Advisor (Health Library) and PubMed’s Clinical Queries. These databases include quick access to clinical guidelines, links to research articles in PubMed and a pre-filtered search tool from PubMed called Clinical Queries, designed to effectively find high level research studies.

ClinicalKey for Nursing (Practice Guidelines)

Lippincott Advisor (Health Library)

PubMed Clinical Queries (Pre-filtered)
To learn more about ClinicalKey for Nursing go to the databases menu and choose from the selection of items including more information, tutorials, mobile device instructions and multimedia tutorials.
ClinicalKey for Nursing has options to limit to specific types of publications, such as Practice Guidelines. There is a pull-down menu for making selections before searching.

ClinicalKey for Nursing includes a single search box for entering terms. After selecting “Practice Guidelines” enter several elements of the P.I.C.O.(T.) to find the guideline in full-text PDF.
Nursing Guidelines are accessible in full-text from ClinicalKey for Nursing.

PRACTICE GUIDELINE

Pain Assessment, nonverbal Pain Assessment in the Patient Unable to Self-Report

Individuals who are unable to communicate their pain are at greater risk and offers clinical practice recommendations for appropriate pain.

REFERENCE:

American Society for Pain Management Nursing (ASPMN)

Similar to Peer Reviewed articles that are published in CINHAL by nursing experts, many Nursing Guidelines are written and maintained by nursing organizations and associations.
Lippincott Advisor (Health Library)

Lippincott Advisor is a multifunctional point-of-care online resource written by and for nurses. It includes a Health Library with links to full-text research articles indexed in the PubMed database.

After selecting Lippincott Advisor from the Nursing Resources page, there is a link to “Health Library” at the top right corner.
Enter several P.I.C.O.(T.) elements in the Health Library search box to access research articles in PubMed.

The Search Results page in Health Library includes links to PubMed articles available on the right sidebar menu.
Health Library’s PubMed links

Health Library has direct links to detailed PubMed article abstracts.

After opening the PubMed detailed abstract there are additional links to PDF full-text articles using the MCHSL icon.

Use detailed abstracts in PubMed to determine if articles are relevant to your P.I.C.O.(T.) topic. This is similar to evaluating Detailed Records in the CINAHL database.

ARTICLES

CE: Assessing and Managing Pain, Agitation, and Delirium in Hospitalized Older Adults.

Effects of Alzheimer Disease on the Facial Expression of Pain.

Pain and Aggression in Nursing Home Residents With Dementia: Minimum Data Set 3.0 Analysis.

Evidence-based development and initial validation of the pain assessment checklist for seniors with limited ability to communicate- II (PACSLAC-II).
From the Nursing Resources page on the Library website, select PubMed (MEDLINE) to open the database.
On the PubMed homepage under PubMed Tools, there is a link to “Clinical Queries.”
Enter several P.I.C.O.(T.) terms in Clinical Queries single search box to view a search results page.

Select from clinical study categories to match your P.I.C.O.(T.) question. Includes Therapy, Etiology, Diagnosis, and Prognosis.

Clinical Queries is “pre-filtered” to quickly and effectively find high level research articles including Systematic Reviews of the Literature.
Results: 5 of 153

Delirium in the geriatric unit: proton-pump inhibitors and other risk factors.
Otrempa I, Włociński K, Szewieczer J.

Analgesic use among nursing homes residents, with and without dementia, in Poland.

Effects of a Stepwise Multidisciplinary Intervention for Challenging Behavior in Advanced Dementia: A Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial.

The Effects of Acupuncture on Cerebral and Muscular Microcirculation: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Near-Infrared Spectroscopy Studies.
Lo MY, Ong MW, Chen WY, Sun WZ, Lin JG.

Symptom Assessment for a Palliative Care Approach in People With Dementia Admitted to Acute Hospitals: Results From a National Audit.
O’Shea E, Timmons S, Kennelly S, de Sín A, Gallagher P, O’Neill D.

See all (153)

Results: 5 of 28

Measures to assess commonly experienced symptoms for people with dementia in long-term care settings: a systematic review.
Ellis-Smith C, Evans CJ, Bone AE, Henson LA, Dzingina M, Kane PM, Higgins IJ, Davison BA, BuildCARE..

Palliative care in dementia: literature review of nurses’ knowledge and attitudes towards pain assessment.
Burns M, McIlfatrick S.

The Effects of Acupuncture on Cerebral and Muscular Microcirculation: A Systematic Review of Near-Infrared Spectroscopy Studies.
Lo MY, Ong MW, Chen WY, Sun WZ, Lin JG.

Symptom Assessment for a Palliative Care Approach in People With Dementia Admitted to Acute Hospitals: Results From a National Audit.
O’Shea E, Timmons S, Kennelly S, de Sín A, Gallagher P, O’Neill D.

Pain assessment for people with dementia: a systematic review of systematic reviews of pain assessment tools.
Lichtner V, Dowding D, Esterhuizen P, Closs SJ, Long AF, Corbett A, Briggs M.

See all (28)

Articles are accessible in full-text PDF format.
Pubmed abstracts include full-text links to articles
PubMed Abstract: MeSH Terms

Pubmed abstracts index standard terms called MeSH that are very useful for identifying relevant information about a topic. They are accessible at the bottom of each article abstract in PubMed.

MeSH terms: (Medical Subject Headings) are similar to the indexed Subject Headings in CINAHL and provide standard terms assigned to each article. Use MeSH terms to build your vocabulary and to find additional terms for searching databases.
This concludes the workshop demonstration of searching 4 databases located on the Nursing Resources page. Each of the databases listed below include brief suggestions for finding nursing research literature.

Before searching it is always good practice to formulate a P.I.C.O.(T.) using the elements to build a question that is focused and includes effective search terms.

**Searching with CINAHL Plus with Full-Text:**
- Enter search terms separately in the search boxes and use the “AND” connector between terms
- Use the “Refine Results” limiter to access Academic Journals that are “Peer-Reviewed.”
- View each article’s “Detailed Record” and use the standard indexed terms (CINAHL Headings) to find additional literature
- Use EBSCO’s “Full-Text Finder” to access articles that are not immediately available in PDF full-text

**Searching with ClinicalKey for Nursing: Practice Guidelines**
- Enter several effective P.I.C.O.(T.) terms in the single search box
- Use the pull-down menu and select “Practice Guidelines”

**Searching with Lippincott Advisor: Health Library**
- After opening Lippincott Advisor select the “Health Library” database
- Enter several effective P.I.C.O.(T.) search terms to access research articles in PubMed

**Searching with PubMed Clinical Queries: Systematic Reviews of the Literature**
- Select PubMed from the Nursing Resources page on the MCHSL website: [https://library.mchs.com](https://library.mchs.com)
- From the PubMed homepage select “Clinical Queries” to find Systematic Reviews of the literature
- View MeSH terms (Medical Subject Headings) indexed with each PubMed abstract to find more standards vocabulary used for searching
Thank you for attending
Searching the Nursing Research Literature: A Workshop

If you need any further assistance please contact Your Library at: 234-5214 or visit us at http://library.mchs.com