



香港造瘻治療師學會
Hong Kong Enterostomal Therapists Association
KOWLOON CENTRAL P.O. BOX 72958 HONG KONG

Evidence Based Practice for Nurses

Searching for Evidence to Inform Practice

Reality about 'Evidence'

- Published literature
 - 20,000+ healthcare journals
 - 10,000+ papers indexed/ month
 - English vs. non-English literature
- Unpublished literature
 - Studies never submitted for publication
 - Conference proceedings
 - Reports
 - Manuals

Quality of Research Reports

- Reports varies widely in quality
- Never assume that published researches are good quality researches
- Even good research may have flaws or weaknesses

Searchable Databases

Primary Sources of Evidence	
CINAHL: Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature	http://www.cinahl.com/
Cochrane Database of Systematic Review	http://www.cochrane.org/
Centre for Reviews and Dissemination	http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/
PubMed/ MEDLINE	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Pubmed
Secondary Sources of Evidence	
Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)	http://www.sign.ac.uk/
National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC)	http://www.guideline.gov/
Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ)	http://www.ahrq.gov/CLINIC/cpgsix.htm
New Zealand Guidelines Group (NZGG)	http://www.nzgg.org.nz/
American Association of Respiratory Care (AARC)	http://www.rcjournal.com/cpgs/

Cochrane Database of Systematic Review (CDSR)

Cochrane Library includes several databases:

- Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews
- Cochrane Database of Methodology Reviews
- Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects
- Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials
- Cochrane Methodology Register
- Health Technology Assessment Database

Facts about CDSR:

- A fairly small database as compared to CINAHL or MEDLINE
- Does not use controlled vocabulary
- Contains citations limited to systematic reviews only
- Reviews are prepared and maintained by collaborative review groups
- Also provide protocols for reviews

National Guidelines Clearinghouse (NGC)

- Supported by the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ) of USA
- Provide summary about the guideline and its development as well as the full-text version
- Also provide a guideline comparison for consumers to compare across several guidelines

MEDLINE

- Produced by the National Library of Medicine
- Available free of charge through the PubMed search engine
- Contains citations from more than 4600 journals in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry and allied health
- Has controlled vocabulary (MeSH)
- Predominant (80%) articles are in English

Cumulated Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL)

- Provide citations with abstracts from 13 nursing and allied health disciplines
- Include more than 3 million journal articles from 1982 to present
- ~ 70% citations in CINAHL also appear in the MEDLINE database
- Has controlled vocabulary
- Articles are retrieved from journals, books, drug monographs, dissertations and images
- Need to pay for viewing
- Additional services: CINAHL express, STAT Search

EMBASE

- A major European pharmaceutical and biomedical database
- Indexing drug research, pharmacology, pharmaceuticals, toxicology, clinical and experimental human medicine, health policy and management, public health, occupational health, drug dependence and abuse, psychiatry, forensic medicine and biomedical engineering/ instrumentation
- Contains more than 9 million articles from 70 countries

PsycINFO

- A database with indexed publications as early as the late 1800s
- House literature in behavioral sciences and mental health
- Contains also books and dissertations
- Useful for professionals in psychology and related fields

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