

If you are having trouble formulating, or even getting results for your PICO question, you may find the Ovid Search Builder to be a helpful tool. Start by going to the Randall Library Nursing Subject Guide, located at library.uncw.edu/guides/nursing. You can choose either Ovid Medline or Ovid Emcare. The Ovid Search Builder is located in the header bar across the top. Click here to open the search builder.

The first thing you'll have to do, is select a database. I would recommend choosing both Ovid Medline and Ovid Emcare. By selecting both databases, you'll broaden your search and increase your chances of getting satisfactory results. A check mark will appear next to the selected databases. Click outside of this box to lock in your choices. You'll see the database names in the blue bar.

Next, it's time to select your first keyword. You can start with the P of your PICO search, patient or population, but it's not necessary to enter your keywords in this order.

I'm interested to see if there's a difference between treating hospitalized COPD patients with inhaled corticosteroids versus oral corticosteroids. So first I'll enter COPD. You can select a wide, multipurpose search for your keywords, or specify that you're looking for articles where your keyword appears in a certain field, such as the title.

Next, map your keywords to controlled vocabulary subject headings. If you choose any subject headings, search builder will search for your keyword plus the subject headings, using the connector OR. I like these subject headings, so I'll select them and hit close.

Then generate a list of synonyms. All the synonyms are selected by default. You can leave them all or deselect the ones you don't want to use. Search builder will search for your keyword plus the synonyms with the connector OR. I'll leave all the options selected and hit close.

Hit the plus sign to add a box for your next keyword. Here, I'll enter inpatients. Once again, you can choose a wide, multi-purpose search, or limit to specific fields. Map to subject headings. I like all the subject headings, so I'll add those. Then generate synonyms. I'll keep all these in my search.

Next come inhaled corticosteroids. Most of these subject headings seem somewhat off track, and I've decided I won't select any of these. Keep in mind that this is not an all or nothing choice. You can select as many of these as you like. I do like all the synonyms though.

And finally, I'll add oral corticosteroids. Choose either wide search or field specific. These subject headings aren't quite on target, and I've decided not to select any of them. And I'm not interested in oral contraceptive use, so I'll deselect all the synonyms and hit close.

Next, scroll down and see if you want to apply any of the filters. The options on these filters are off, wide, focused, and in some cases, balanced. For an explanation of what each filter does, click on the adjacent information button, which is an i inside a circle. After you've made your selections hit launch search.

I need to hit this expand button to make all my previous searches visible. Each search is numbered in the order they appeared in the search builder. You can see the search for COPD with all the subject headings and synonyms connected by OR. There are several action options for each individual search.

Here you can see Oral Corticosteroids, where I chose not to include any subject headings or synonyms.

The last search is a combination of the previous 4 searches (COPD, inpatients, inhaled corticosteroids, and oral corticosteroids) connected with the word AND. That's why this search has the fewest number of results. The search results for the latest search are below the search box and limiters.

You can click on Additional Limits, add limiters, and then hit Limit a Search to apply limiters. Some articles are available in Full Text within Ovid. Others say Get it from UNCW, which indicates that they are indexed in Ovid, but Ovid does not have the full-text rights to the article. Clicking on this link searches through the library's other databases for the article. If we have it, you will get a link for the full-text. If not, you will be presented with an opportunity to request the item for free through interlibrary loan. Thank you for joining me for this tutorial on Ovid's Search Builder tool.