# CINAHL Plus (Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature)

## Background & coverage
The CINAHL database provides authoritative coverage of the literature related to nursing and allied health. Virtually all English-language publications are indexed along with the publications of the American Nurses Association and the National League for Nursing.

## Best Clinical Use
Clinical information most relevant to Nursing and Allied Health Professionals, Dental Hygiene, Audiology, Emergency Services, Health Information Management, Medical Assisting, Laboratory Technology, Physicians Assistant, and Radiologic Technology.

## Positives
- Includes Evidence-based Care Sheets
- Subject headings use terminology familiar to nursing and allied health professionals
- Comprehensive indexing for nursing and allied health journals
- Also indexes books and book chapters, dissertations, audiovisual materials and other formats
- Indexes some journals that are not covered by Medline

## Negatives
- Restricted to nursing and allied health journals; relevant papers published in other medical journals will not be indexed
- May need to supplement search with Medline or similar to cover a greater proportion of the relevant literature if you are doing research on a multidisciplinary topic

## Search Tips and Tools:

### CINAHL Headings
- **Advanced Search**: After entering a search term, CINAHL will offer a list of CINAHL Headings it thinks match your term. Select the terms you are interested in.
- **Explode**: broadens your search and makes results less specific.
- **Major Concept**: narrows your search and makes your result more specific.
- Click on [Scope] to see what a Subject Heading covers.

### Truncation & wildcards
- **Use * to find suffix variations of any length. E.g. Disease* finds diseases, diseased etc.**
- **Use ? within or at the end of a word to substitute for one or no characters. Useful for finding variant spellings of a word. E.g. colo?r finds color and colour.**

### Additional limits & clinical filters
- **Use the Clinical Queries filter to choose query type (diagnosis, therapy, prognosis, etc)**
- **Retrieved too much**, narrow your search by:
  - Limit by Age Group, Gender
  - Limit to Publication Type (Clinical Trial, Systematic Review etc)
  - Use subheadings. If a plus sign (+) appears next to a narrower or related term, there are narrower terms below it.
  - Select query type (therapy, prognosis, review, qualitative, causation) and focus (high sensitivity, high specificity, best balance)

- **Retrieved too little**, broaden your search by:
  - Use OR with synonymous concepts
  - Remove all limits
  - Choose All Subheadings
  - Use a broader term (eye diseases instead of retinal diseases)
  - Explode CINAHL Headings
  - Truncate text words
  - Use the “apply related terms” feature
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of question</th>
<th>Best type of study</th>
<th>Useful search terms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Therapy**      | 1. RCT  
2. Cohort  
3. Case control  
4. Case series | • Clinical Research+ [CINAHL]  
• Clinical Trials+ [CINAHL]  
• Community Trials [CINAHL]  
• Comparative Studies [CINAHL]  
• Crossover Design [CINAHL]  
• Experimental Studies [CINAHL]  
• Outcomes (Health Care)+ [CINAHL]  
• Patient Selection [CINAHL]  
• Placebos [CINAHL]  
• Pilot Studies [CINAHL]  
• Professional Practice, Research-Based+ [CINAHL]  
• Reproducibility of Results [CINAHL]  
• Research Methodology [CINAHL]  
• Clinical Trial [pt]  
• Systematic Review [pt]  
• Therapy [sh]  
• Administration And Dosage [sh]  
• Radiotherapy [sh]  
• Rehabilitation [sh]  
• Therapeutic Use [sh] |
| **Diagnosis**    | Prospective, blind to a gold standard | • Clinical Assessment Tools [CINAHL]  
• Diagnosis, Differential [CINAHL]  
• Diagnostic Errors+ [CINAHL]  
• Measurement Issues and Assessments+ [CINAHL]  
• Observer Bias+ [CINAHL]  
• Prognosis [Clinical Queries filter]  
• Prospective Studies [CINAHL]  
• Disease Progression [CINAHL]  
• Morbidity+ [CINAHL]  
• Mortality+ [CINAHL]  
• Predictive Value of Tests [CINAHL]  
• Professional Practice, Research-Based [sh]  
• Reproducibility of Results [sh]  
• Sensitivity and Specificity [sh]  
• Diagnosis [sh]  
• Diagnostic Use [sh] |
| **Prognosis**    | 1. Cohort Study  
2. Case control  
3. Case series | • Prognosis [Clinical Queries filter]  
• Prospective Studies [CINAHL]  
• Disease Progression [CINAHL]  
• Morbidity+ [CINAHL]  
• Mortality+ [CINAHL]  
• Nonexperimental Studies+ [CINAHL]  
• Outcomes (Health Care)+ [CINAHL]  
• Prognosis+ [CINAHL]  
• Recurrence [CINAHL]  
• Survival Analysis+ [CINAHL]  
• Time Factors [CINAHL]  
• Prognosis [sh] |
| **Aetiology**    | 1. RCT  
2. Cohort study  
3. Case control  
4. Case series | • Etiology [sh]  
• Analytic Research [CINAHL]  
• Case Control Studies+ [CINAHL]  
• Epidemiological Research+ [CINAHL]  
• Nonexperimental Studies+ [CINAHL]  
• Odds Ratio [CINAHL]  
• Professional Practice, Research-Based+ [CINAHL]  
• Prospective Studies+ [CINAHL]  
• Risk Assessment [CINAHL]  
• Risk Factors+ [CINAHL]  
• Sensitivity and Specificity [CINAHL]  
• Epidemiology [sh]  
• Familial And Genetic [sh]  
• Risk Factors [sh] |
| **Questions of harm** | 1. RCT  
2. Cohort study  
3. Case control  
4. Case series | • Case Study [pt]  
• Case Control Studies [CINAHL]  
• Case Studies [CINAHL] |