CONDUCTING LITERATURE SEARCHES FOR PCOR/CER STUDIES

Gail Betz, MLIS
Research, Education and Outreach Librarian
Health Sciences and Human Services Library
gbetz@hshsl.umaryland.edu
(410) 706-6551

Objectives

At the end of the session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify databases relevant to PCOR/CER research
2. Use appropriate keywords to form effective search strategies
3. Utilize pre-constructed search strategies and filters to maximize relevant results

Suggested Databases

- PubMed
- EMBASE
- CINAHL
- PsycINFO
- Cochrane Library
PubMed Special Queries

Standardized vocabulary

- **Emtree term**: comparative effectiveness

- **MeSH**: comparative effectiveness research

At this point, there are no standardized vocabulary terms for PCOR; however, terms are added to these lists regularly, so it’s something to keep an eye out for!
Patient-Centered Outcomes Research
(Patient OR stakeholder OR consumer)

AND

(participation OR involvement OR perspective OR preference)

AND

(interdisciplinary research OR qualitative research OR experimental design OR methodology)

Comparative Effectiveness Research
(comparative OR compare OR effective OR versus OR intervention OR benefits)

AND

(health services research OR randomized controlled trial OR clinical trial OR single blind OR double blind OR blinded)

Strengthening a literature search

- Use filters as much as is appropriate
  - Publication date range, language, study design

- Brainstorm synonyms and/or look for keywords in recent literature
  - This is most useful for relatively new topics, or unfamiliar topics
Searches
You want to conduct a literature search for **comparative effectiveness research** on stroke patients. You are particularly interested in learning the best way to treat dysphagia after a stroke.

What database would you start in? What terms would you try first?

Searches
You want to conduct a literature search for **patient-centered outcomes research** on diabetes self-management. You are interested in patients’ opinions on what has been most helpful in controlling Type 2 diabetes.

What database would you start in? What terms would you try first?

Questions?
Contact Information
Kimberly Yang, JD, MLS
Research, Education and Outreach Librarian
School of Pharmacy Librarian
410-706-7374
kyang@hshsl.umaryland.edu

Information Services Desk
410-706-7996