Where to find PubMed

How to Build a Search Query

The following search tools may help you build your own search terms aligned to the National PA Research Agenda. All you need to do is

1. pick a profession (e.g., PA, NP, or both)
2. a time frame (e.g., in the past 10 years), and
3. a search term and
4. enter it in the Query Box.

**Part 1: Pick a Profession**

PA
("physician assistants "[MeSH Terms])

NP
("nurse practitioners "[MeSH Terms])

Both
("physician assistants "[MeSH Terms]) OR ("nurse practitioners "[MeSH Terms])

**Part 2: Pick a Time Frame**

AND ("last 10 years" [Date - Publication])
Part 3: Pick a Locations

US Only
AND (north america[mesh:noexp] OR united states[mesh]) NOT (africa[mesh] OR asia[mesh] OR australia[mesh] OR canada[mesh] OR europe[mesh] OR south america[mesh])

For all locations
Omit the location parameter.

Part 4: Pick a Set of Search Terms Aligned to National PA Research Agenda

Cost-Effectiveness of PAs
AND ("Costs and Cost Analysis" [Mesh] OR "Efficiency" [Mesh] OR “employment” [mesh]) OR (“cost effective” OR “value” ))

Patient Outcomes
AND ("Treatment Outcome" [Mesh] OR "Quality of Health Care"[Mesh])

Access to Care
AND ("Health Services Accessibility" [Mesh] ) OR ( "Rural Health Services" [Mesh] )OR (“access to care” OR “underserved”))

PA Supply and Demand
AND “last 10 years”[Date - Publication]

PA Workforce Composition
AND (“employment” [mesh] OR “characteristic” OR “demographic” OR “composition”)

PA Readiness to Practice
AND (“employment” [mesh] OR "Professional Autonomy"[Mesh] OR “readiness to practice” or (“education” and “prepared”))

Understanding PA Roles
AND (“employment” [mesh] OR “physician assistant role”)

Healthcare Team Outcomes
AND ("Patient Care Team"[Mesh] AND ("Evidence-Based Practice"[Mesh] OR "Health Services Research"[Mesh]) OR (outcome)))

Healthcare Team Dynamics
**Step 5: Put it Together and Search**

Two examples of how the search terms will be combined.

**PAs and NPs role increasing access to care in the past 10 years**

```plaintext
("physician assistants"[MeSH Terms]) OR ("nurse practitioners"[MeSH Terms]) AND ("last 10 years"[Date - Publication]) AND (north america[Mesh:noexp] OR united states[Mesh]) NOT (africa[Mesh] OR asia[Mesh] OR australia[Mesh] OR canada[Mesh] OR europe[Mesh] OR south america[Mesh]) AND ("Health Services Accessibility"[Mesh]) OR ("Rural Health Services"[Mesh]) OR ("access to care" OR "underserved")
```
Patient satisfaction with PAs in the past 5 years
("physician assistants" [MeSH Terms]) AND ("last 5 years"[Date - Publication]) AND (north america[mesh:noexp] OR united states[mesh]) NOT (africa[mesh] OR asia[mesh] OR australia[mesh] OR canada[mesh] OR europe[mesh] OR south america[mesh]) AND ("patient satisfaction" [mesh] OR “consumer behavior” [mesh])

Using MeSH to Build Additional Search Terms
MeSH stands for Medical Subject Headings. They are the specific terms used for indexing journal articles within PubMed.

On the main PubMed Page, select “Explore MeSH Database”

You will get to the MeSH search tool
Searching "Dermatology" will bring up all of the search builder topics. You can select one or more subheadings or select none. Then click add to search builder on the right hand side. This will give you a search term to add at Step 3 above.

Selecting no subheadings
Dermatology
A medical specialty concerned with the skin, its structure, functions, diseases, and treatment.
PubMed search builder options

Select a few