PDQ Evidence for informed Health Policymaking

The aim of PDQ (pretty darn quick) Evidence is to provide access to the best available evidence to support health policymaking decisions. Information provided includes:

- **Systematic Reviews**
- **Broad syntheses of reviews** (summaries of systematic reviews that address broad questions using systematic methods)
- **Primary Studies**
- **Evidence-based policy briefs** (bring together 'global' research evidence (from systematic reviews) and local evidence to inform deliberations about health policies and programmes)
- **Structured summaries** (Summaries of broad syntheses, systematic reviews and primary studies)

**Searching PDQ**

PDQ only allows free text (keyword) searching.

Techniques supported by PDQ are:

- **Boolean Operators** (AND, OR, NOT) e.g.
  
  leaders OR managers AND quality of care

- **Truncation** (using the * symbol) e.g.
  
  leader* ➔ leaders or leadership
  manag* ➔ manage or manager or managers or management or managing

- **Phrase searching** (using speech marks ““) e.g.
  
  “quality of care”

- **Parentheses** (surrounding related terms in brackets) e.g.
  
  (leaders* or manag*) AND (“quality of care” or “patient experiences”)
When searching PDQ the **Advanced Search** option is recommended [1].

This option gives you more control than the basic search as it:

- Allows you to restrict your search terms to selected fields. The recommended field is **Title OR Abstract** [1]
- Allows you to add as many lines to your search as necessary [2]

### Advanced search

- **Title OR Abstract**

It is best to search using one line for **each concept** of your topic e.g. if your topic was:

**the challenges facing clinical leaders in improving the quality of health care**

The first line of your search could include terms related to **challenges** e.g.:

- challenges
- tasks
- demands

The second line could include terms related to **clinical leaders** e.g.:

- clinical leaders
- clinical managers
- health leaders
- health managers
The third line could include terms relating to improving health care e.g.:

improving health or improvements in health or improving quality or quality improvements or quality of care or patient experiences or experiences of patients

These can then be combined together used the AND operator [1] to produce your final result.

Using the relevant search techniques the search would look like this:

Selecting the Search button will display your results.

**Editing your search**

When results are displayed, you can edit your search by selecting Show search editor at the top of the screen [1].

Too few results? Make your search broader by taking out one of the concepts you have used by deleting those terms from the search bar [1]. Change the fields back to Title OR Abstract [2]. Perform the search again by selecting Search [3].
Too many results? Make your search narrower by adding another concept to your search. To do this select the History button [1]. You will see that details of your search are listed under your Search History [2]. To add another concept to your search perform a new search in the search bar [3].

The number of results for this search will be listed on a new page.

To go back to your Search History select Show search editor. The second search will be added to your Search History [1].
The second search can then be added to the first to narrow your search. To do this delete the current search in the search bar [1]. Click on each search number and select the **AND in builder** option [2].

This will add the two searches to the search bar. You will still need to select which fields you want to use for each search [1]. Select **Search** to see your updated results [2].
Viewing results

Results are displayed after selecting the **Search** button.

Details included are the *title, author, source of publication* and *publication date*.

All results can be seen by scrolling down the list [1].

Results can be filtered using the filter options on the left hand side [2] these include *publication date* and *publication type*. The PubMed Central filter allows you to limit your results that appear in the PubMed central resource.

Clicking within a results box [3] will show the abstract of the article on the right hand side [4]. There is also a tab available here to view some evidence related to the article [5].

Finding related evidence

Whilst selecting the **Related evidence** tab for the selected article will display one or two related articles, clicking on the title of the article will bring up even more.

These are arranged under the following categories of evidence:

- Broad Syntheses
- Systematic Reviews
- Primary Studies
Selecting one of these boxes will list related evidence which comes under that category [1].

The management of the NHS in England.

Creating an account

It is free to create an account. This can be done by selecting the Sign up button at the top of the screen [1].

Saving searches

Once you have an account you can save any searches you make. Select Show search editor to view the ‘edit’ screen and select the Save button to save your results [1].
Saving articles

To save individual articles select the title of the article and select Add to favourites [1] or Matrix [2].

Quality improvement interventions in public health systems: a systematic review.

Adding to favourites will save the article.

Selecting Matrix will save the article together with links to related articles [1].
Retrieving saved searches, articles and matrixes

After you have logged in any searches and articles you have saved can be retrieved by selecting the My PDQ-Evidence button [1].