

NHS Evidence: a quick guide

What is NHS Evidence?

NHS Evidence is a website that provides easy access to a high quality and comprehensive evidence base for everyone involved in health and social care.

NHS Evidence is provided by NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence) and allows you to search a number of evaluated sites for evidence-based health and social care information.

NHS Evidence also provides access to specialist resources previously available through the National Library for Health (NLH), for example specialist collections, advanced healthcare databases (including Medline, Embase, Cinahl and others) and access to full text books and journals.



www.evidence.nhs.uk

How do I access NHS Evidence?

Go to www.evidence.nhs.uk. You do not need to register to search NHS Evidence, but you need an NHS Athens username and password in order to access full-text books and journals and to search advanced healthcare databases such as Medline, Embase and Cinahl.

For help with registering for an NHS Athens account, please see *Library Helpsheet 1: Creating and using your NHS Athens account*.

How do I search NHS Evidence?

NHS Evidence uses a simple Google-style search box.

For best results, use a few keywords from your search question, for example:

- Acupuncture in shoulder pain
- Ambulatory oxygen in COPD
- Early intervention in psychosis




SEARCH TIPS

- If you enter more than one term in the search box, NHS Evidence will search for documents that contain all those words
- You can use the Boolean operator OR to find articles that contain either term (e.g. lactation OR breastfeeding)
- To find phrases, type them in speech marks (e.g. "head injury")
- To find words with the same stem but different endings you can use a 'wildcard' by typing * (e.g. pregnan* will search for pregnant and pregnancy)

What do my results look like?

Your results are listed in the centre of the page. Results are shown in order of relevance, and 10 items are shown on each page.

If you have too many results, you can refine your search using the filters down the side of the page.

Filter your results by area of interest, type of information, clinical query, source or medicine.

The screenshot shows the NHS Evidence search results page. At the top, there are navigation links: 'Home', 'About us', 'Conduct a Specialist Search', and 'Feedback'. The main heading is 'Search Results'. Below this is a search bar containing the text 'head injury' and a 'Search' button. To the right of the search bar is a form for emailing results to a colleague, with fields for 'From name', 'From email address', 'To name', and 'To email address'. Below the search bar, it says 'You searched for: "head injury", results sorted by relevance (sort these results by date)'. There are filters for 'Filter your results by:' with options for 'Areas of Interest' (Clinical, Drugs and Technologies, Commissioning, Public Health, Social Care, Education and Learning, Tools) and 'Types of Information' (Guidelines, Drug Information). The results list shows two items: 1. 'CG4 Head Injury: Full guideline' and 2. 'Head Injury Update Full version 1'. Each item has a brief description and a date. On the right side, there is a 'Send' button and a 'Sign up for the NHS Evidence newsletter' button.

Where a summary exists select 'Read summary' to help you decide how useful the item is.

In general, clicking on the title of the item will take you to the fulltext.

Some sources may only provide summaries or critical appraisals of published papers.

You have the option to e-mail your results to a colleague (or yourself).

Need a more in-depth search?

If you need to conduct a more in-depth search, or if you want to access the healthcare databases, hover over 'Conduct a Specialist Search' at the top of the page.

Here you can:

- 'Search specialist databases' (access to individually published studies and journal articles via Medline, Embase, Cinahl and more)
- 'Search Specialist Collections' (sources of evidence covering a particular topic area. There are currently 34 specialist collections covering various therapeutic areas (e.g. diabetes), patient groups (e.g. child health) and healthcare services (e.g. emergency and urgent care))
- 'Search Books and Journals' (access to e-journals and e-books available to you)

You will need your Athens username and password to access these specialist resources.

The screenshot shows the 'Conduct a Specialist Search' dropdown menu on the NHS Evidence website. The menu is open, showing options: 'Search Books and Journals', 'Search specialist databases (HDAs)', 'Search Specialist Collections', and 'Register for Athens'. The background shows the NHS Evidence logo and a search bar.

Want to find out more?

Library training can help you get the best out of these resources.

To view all the sessions we offer through our Information Literacy and Skills Training Programme, visit the Integrated Library Service web pages at www.whnt.nhs.uk/library and select 'Training and Induction'.

View our webpages at www.whnt.nhs.uk/library or contact us at:

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