### MEDLINE Search Strategies by Type of Question

#### Treatment Questions
**Study Designs**
- Meta-Analysis
- Systematic Reviews
- Randomized Controlled Trial
- Clinical Trial

**MeSH Terms (MH)**
- Placebos
- Treatment Outcome
- Double Blind Method
- Controlled Clinical Trial
- Combined Modality Therapy
- Surgical Procedures, Operative
- Outcome Assessment Health Care

**Subheadings (SH)**
- Diet Therapy
- Drug Therapy
- Surgery
- Rehabilitation
- Radiotherapy
- Therapeutic Use
- Therapy
- Prevention & Control

#### Prognosis Questions
**Study Designs**
- Cohort Studies
- Case Control Series

**MeSH Terms (MH)**
- Prognosis
- Survival Analysis
- Mortality
- Morbidity
- Follow-Up Studies
- Incidence
- Disease Progression
- Life Expectancy
- Quality of Life
  - Quality-Adjusted Life Years
  - Recovery of Function
  - Recurrence
  - Survival
  - Time Factors
  - Sex Factors
  - Disease-Free Survival
  - Survival Rate

**Subheadings (SH)**
- Mortality

#### Diagnosis Questions
**Study Designs**
- Controlled Trial
- Prospective Blind Comparison to Gold Standard

**MeSH Terms (MH)**
- “Sensitivity and Specificity”
- Predictive Value of Tests
  - Comparative Study
  - Diagnosis, Differential
  - Diagnostic Errors
  - Reference Standards
  - “Diagnostic Techniques and Procedures”
  - “Signs and Symptoms”
  - Physical Examination
  - Medical History Taking
  - Mass Screening

**Subheadings (SH)**
- Diagnosis
- Diagnostic Use
- Pathology
- Blood
- Urine
- Radiography
- Ultrasonography

#### Etiology/Harm Questions
**Study Designs**
- Cohort Studies
- Case-Control Studies

**MeSH Terms (MH)**
- Risk
- Causality
- Odds Ratio
- Longitudinal Studies
- Comparative Study
- Disease Susceptibility
- Drug Hypersensitivity
- Drug Interactions
- Time Factors
- Environmental Pollution
- Risk Factors
- Prevalence

**Subheadings (SH)**
- Adverse Effects
- Etiology
- Prevention & Control
- Epidemiology
- Toxicity
- Chemically Induced
- Complications

---

- In MEDLINE, study designs may be a Publication Limit (PT) or MeSH Term (MH). In some cases; study types may be both, if this is the case use the PT.
- Bolded terms are good terms to start with, but definitely don’t rule out trying the other terms.
- In your search strategies, Limit to your patient population (i.e. gender, age) only if you think it makes a difference or is significantly relevant.
- Subheading options depend on whether the MH terms is a condition, disease, or intervention.
- Keep in mind, this document is not an exhaustive list of terms, however these terms have been found to be significantly effective in EBM literature searching.