

Evidence Based Limits for CINAHL Publication Types in order by strength

Need help searching for EB Literature?

[Limiting a CINAHL Search to Retrieve Evidence Based Articles](#)

Systematic Review

Presents the current state of knowledge on a topic as a result of reviewing and synthesizing published research on the topic.



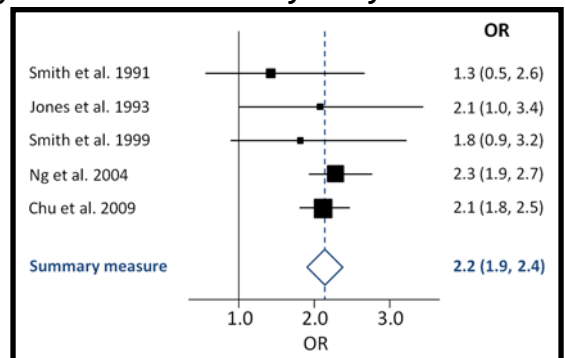
"Six studies reported on BP in adults with different outcomes..."



Example: [Musculoskeletal disorder and pain associated with smartphone use: A systematic review of biomechanical evidence. Hong Kong Physiotherapy Journal, Dec; 38\(2\):77-90.](#)

Meta-Analysis

- ◆ Often an overview of clinical trials and is usually called a meta-analysis by the author or sponsoring body.
- ◆ Combines the results of independent studies performed to evaluate therapeutic effectiveness, plan new studies, etc.
- ◆ Article always contains a "Plot" such as a [Forest Plot](#) or [Funnel Plot](#) to provide a visual representation of important information from all studies included in the meta-analysis.
- ◆ Sometimes misused as a synonym for systematic reviews. Should be differentiated from reviews of literature.



Example of a Forest Plot

Example: [The Effect of Supervised Prenatal Exercise on Fetal Growth: A Meta-analysis. Obstetrics & Gynecology, 125\(5\), 1185-1194.](#)

Standards

- ◆ A formal standard of practice or position paper issued by a professional organization.



Example: [Fruit Juice in Infants, Children, and Adolescents: Current Recommendations. Pediatrics, Jun2017; 139\(6\): 1-8.](#)

Practice Guidelines

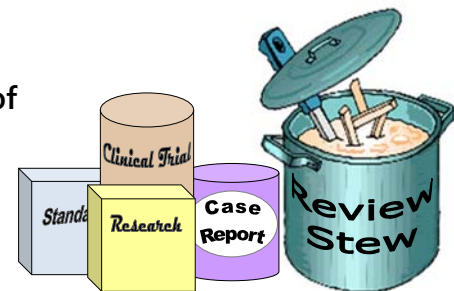
- ◆ Works consisting of a set of directions or principles to assist the health care practitioner with patient care decisions about appropriate diagnostic, therapeutic, or other clinical procedures for specific clinical circumstances.
- ◆ Practice guidelines may be developed by government agencies, institutions, professional societies or governing boards, or by a convening of expert panels.

Example: [Screening for gestational diabetes mellitus: U.S. Preventive services task force recommendation statement. *Annals Of Internal Medicine*, 160\(6\), 414-420](#)



Review

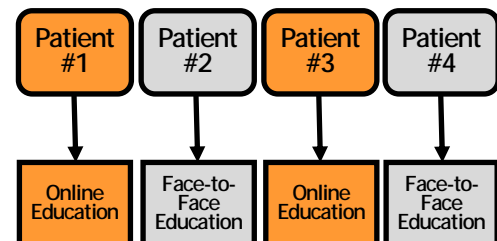
- ◆ Indicates a review of the published literature that can cover a wide range of subject matter of various levels of completeness or comprehensiveness.
- ◆ The presence of research findings or case reports does not preclude designation as a review.



Example: [Migraine Treatment: Current Acute Medications and Their Potential Mechanisms of Action. *Neurotherapeutics*, \(2018\) 15:274-290.](#)

Randomized Controlled Trial

- ◆ At least one test treatment and one control treatment.
- ◆ Participants are assigned to the test group or the control group using randomization. For example, every odd-numbered patient may receive the test treatment, while the others receive current standard treatment.



Example: [Improving Adolescent Parenting: Results From a Randomized Controlled Trial of a Home Visiting Program for Young Families. *American Journal Of Public Health*, 106\(2\), 342-349.](#)

Research

- ◆ An original research study containing data collection, methodology, discussion of results, etc.

Example: [Walking performance in adolescents and young adults with Down syndrome: the role of obesity and sleep problems. *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*, 62\(4\): 339-348.](#)

Sections Usually Found in a Research Article

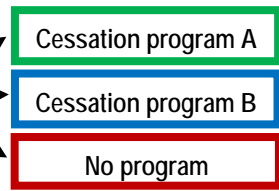
- Introduction/Background
- Methods/Procedure
- Results
- Conclusions/Discussion
- References

Clinical Trial

- ◆ Indicates the research study is a clinical trial, a randomized clinical trial, or a randomized controlled trial.

Example: [A Pilot Study of Home-Based Smoking Cessation Programs for Rural, Appalachian, Pregnant Smokers. JOGNN, 44\(2\), 236-245](#)

Patients who smoke tobacco



Case Study

- ◆ Indicates a review of a particular condition, disease, or administrative problem. Includes case reports.

Example: [An Atypical Case of Abdominal Pain in a Toddler: A Diagnostic Challenge. Advanced Emergency Nursing Journal, 41\(3\), 215-221](#)



Publication Types in Order by Strength of Evidence	Publication Types in Alphabetical Order
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic Review • Meta-Analysis • Standards • Practice Guidelines • Review • Randomized Controlled Trial • Research • Clinical Trial • Case Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Study • Clinical Trial • Meta-Analysis • Practice Guidelines • Randomized Controlled Trial • Research • Review • Standards • Systematic Review

References:

- ◆ CINAHL Document Types – <https://www.ebscohost.com/resources/cinahl-plus-with-full-text/lma/document-types.htm>
- ◆ Cochrane Glossary - <https://epoc.cochrane.org/sites/epoc.cochrane.org/files/public/uploads/SURE-Guides-v2.1/Collectedfiles/source/glossary.html>
- ◆ Forest Plot—By James Grellier (Own work) [CC BY-SA 3.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>) or GFDL (<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html>)], via Wikimedia Commons
- ◆ NLM Scope Notes - <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/pubtypes.html>