These specialized search filters were developed to optimize MEDLINE search strategies for retrieving sound clinical studies of the etiology, prognosis, diagnosis, and therapy. The search may be either broad and sensitive or narrow and specific.

**To Search**

1. Click on the Clinical Queries link on the left navigation bar from the PubMed homepage.

2. Click on Search by Clinical Study Category link or scroll down to Search by Clinical Study Category section:

   ![Search by Clinical Study Category](image)

   This search finds citations that correspond to a specific clinical study category. The search may be either broad and sensitive or narrow and specific. The search filters are based on the work of Haynes RB et al. See the filter table for details.

   - **Search**
   - **Category**
   - **Scope**
   - etiology
   - diagnosis
   - therapy
   - prognosis
   - narrow, specific search
   - broad, sensitive search

3. Enter a search query in the search box. You may use operators (AND, OR).

4. Select a research **Category** by clicking on the radio button:
   - **etiology** – causative agents of diseases
   - **diagnosis** – determination of the nature of a disease or condition or the distinguishing of one disease or condition from another
   - **therapy** default – therapeutic interventions of diseases
   - **prognosis** – prediction of the probable outcome of a disease

5. Select a **Scope** by clicking on the radio button:
   - **narrow/specific search** default
     - Very few irrelevant hits, but may omit some relevant
     - Smaller set retrieved (fewer citations)
   - **broad/sensitive search**
     - broader search with all relevant citations, but possibly some less relevant included
     - will get larger set retrieved (more citations)

6. Click on the **Go** button.

7. After running a search, you can apply limits to the retrieval set, if desired.
## Table for Search by Clinical Study Category Filter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Optimized For</th>
<th>Broad/ Narrow</th>
<th>PubMed Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>therapy</td>
<td>sensitive/broad 99%/70%</td>
<td>(clinical[Title/Abstract] AND trial[Title/Abstract]) OR clinical trials[MeSH Terms] OR clinical trial[Publication Type] OR random*[Title/Abstract] OR random allocation[MeSH Terms] OR therapeutic use[MeSH Subheading]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>specific/narrow 93%/97%</td>
<td>randomized controlled trial[Publication Type] OR (randomized[Title/Abstract] AND controlled[Title/Abstract]) AND trial[Title/Abstract]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>specific/narrow 64%/98%</td>
<td>specificity[Title/Abstract]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>etiology</td>
<td>sensitive/broad 93%/63%</td>
<td>risk*[Title/Abstract] OR risk*[MeSH noexp] OR risk <em>[MeSH noexp] OR cohort studies[MeSH Terms] OR group</em>[Text Word]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>specific/narrow 51%/95%</td>
<td>(relative[Title/Abstract] AND risk*[Title/Abstract]) OR (relative risk[Text Word]) OR risks[Text Word] OR cohort studies[MeSH noexp] OR (cohort[Title/Abstract] AND stud*[Title/Abstract])</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>specific/narrow 52%/94%</td>
<td>prognosis*[Title/Abstract] OR (first[Title/Abstract] AND episode[Title/Abstract]) OR cohort[Title/Abstract]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For information on how this filter was developed see: [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/jf04/cq_info.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/jf04/cq_info.html)