Primary Health Care (PHC) Search Filter: Bringing the evidence to shore

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Primary Health Care Research & Information Service (PHCRIS)

‘PHCRIS helps people to find information, share knowledge, build capacity and exchange ideas about primary health care’

- Professor Ellen McIntyre OAM, Director
Content

• Development of the PHC Search Filter
• PHCRIS and Flinders Filters
• PHC Search Filter demonstration
• Evaluation of the PHC Search Filter
• Implications and where to next
The Need for Evidence

- ‘Evidence-informed policy and practice pathway’
  - Sourcing, using, implementing evidence

- Evidence can:
  - Inform care
  - Guide decisions
  - Assess value

- Up-to-date information for:
  - Researchers, policy makers, practitioners
Coming to the Rescue

• Journals, citations, grey literature
• Overwhelming for searchers
• Time pressures

• Search Filters:
  • Evidence-based literature strategies
  • Standardised, systematic, subject-based
  • Known level of performance
What is the PHC Search Filter?

An efficient search strategy providing easy access to the PHC literature you need

• Developed by Flinders Filters
• Hosted on the PHCRIS Website
• Sources PHC literature through PubMed
Stage 1:

PHC Search Filter Development
A Collaborative Project

• PHCRIS
  • Knowledge exchange organisation

• Flinders Filters
  • Specialise in information retrieval and development of real world solutions

• Expert Advisory Group

• Aimed to develop search system for automated harvesting of literature
Five Phases of Development

1. Gold standard set of PHC-specific articles
2. Index terms and textwords identified
3. Combinations of search terms tested
4. Assessed most effective search strategy
5. Filter translated for use in PubMed
Primary Health Care (PHC) Search Filter

The PHC Search Filter is an efficient search strategy giving you easy access to the primary health care literature you need.

To try the PHC Search Filter either:
1. Follow one of the One-Click search links for a topic, OR
2. Build-Your-Own search: see the Help section Quick Start Guide.

**Topic and/or keywords of your interest:**

- Chronic disease management
- Heart failure
- Continuity of patient care
- Indigenous health
- Coronary heart disease
- Mental illness
- Diabetes
- Patient experience
- Palliative care
- General Practitioners
- Health services accessibility
- Rural and remote health

**Keywords:**

**Refine search using any combination of:**
- Free Full Text
- RCTs and/or Systematic Reviews
- Australia
- Published Date
- Search URL

**PHC Search Filter**
- Watch introductory demo
- Features/benefits/limitations
- How it works
- Background information
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Subscribe for updates
- Feedback / Contribute
- In October 2012 we evaluated the PHC Search Filter. Thank you to those who participated. Here are our findings in the Evaluation report [PDF: 472KB]

**Help**
- Quick Start Guide
- Topic
- Keywords
- Free Full Text
- RCTs / Systematic Reviews
- Australia
- Published Date
- Search URL
PHC Search Filter URL

One-Click Searching

• Choose from 12 topics
Build-Your-Own Searching

- Search using keywords of your choice

Build-Your-Own search using the following, all are optional. Quick Start Guide available.

**Topic and/or keywords of your interest:**

**Topic:** ① Searching entire PHC concept (without a topic)
- Chronic disease management
- Heart failure
- Continuity of patient care
- Indigenous health
- Coronary heart disease
- Mental illness
- Diabetes
- Patient experience
- General Practitioners
- Palliative care
- Health services accessibility
- Rural and remote health
- Don’t use a specific topic - entire PHC concept

**Keywords:** 

**Refine search using any combination of:**

- Free Full Text
- RCTs and/or Systematic Reviews
- Australia

Published date: All results

Search (opens PubMed search in new window)  Reset
PHC Search Filter in Action

Stage 2:
PHC Search Filter Evaluation
Methods

• Aimed to obtain user feedback on:
  • How the PHC Search Filter had been received
  • Additional topic suggestions
  • User-recommended improvements

• Mixed methods
  • Web statistics
  • 12 item online evaluation survey
    • Quantitative: reasons for use/perceived outcomes
    • Qualitative: opinions/recommendations
Survey Respondents

- 90 completed surveys received
- 50% had used the PHC Search Filter
- 28% researchers
- 20% practitioners
- 12% policy makers
- 26% university
- 12% service provider
- 18% government
PHC Search Filter Statistics

- 3,800 general page views (78% new viewers)
- Online usage mostly from Australia (93%)
- 650 subscribers to mailing list
  - Researchers
  - Policy makers
  - Medicare Locals
  - Allied health organisations
Search Preferences

• More users selected the build-your-own option
• Chronic disease management popular one-click
• ‘Australia only’ and ‘free full text’ limits popular

• Survey data preferences:
  • 42% used both search options
  • 29% one-click
  • 27% build-your-own
Perceptions of the PHC Search Filter

- 96% found the Filter easy to navigate
- 82% would recommend the Filter to others
- 67% used the Filter to keep up with latest literature

Additional topic recommendations:
- Child/maternal health
- Health prevention
Usefulness of the PHC Search Filter

- 71% indicated the Filter was useful/very useful to their work
- 82% noted that it was useful/very useful in general

How useful do you think the PHC Search Filter is in general?
Qualitative Feedback

• “this tool would be great for a basic search in the primary care context, as it can simplify the search process for people who are unaccustomed to other ways of searching, or who do not have access to alternatives such as university library databases... it certainly won’t hurt to add the PHCRIS option to my Favourites for future searches” [Researcher, University]

• “I played with the tool, looking for information on a health topic of personal interest – was impressed with the information returned” [Policy maker, Federal Government]
Challenges

• **Evaluation:**
  - Generalisability of findings
  - Perceptions of specific groups

• **PHC Search Filter:**
  - Specificity vs. comprehensiveness
  - Dependence on PubMed input
  - English language restrictions
  - Difficulty retrieving full text of articles
Future Directions

• Exploring needs of specific populations
• Updating searches based on user feedback and data
• Scoping similar tools for different databases
• Continued evaluation
• Promoting awareness
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