



## Searching Tips (for use on the Knowledge hub)

You can refine a search in numerous ways to either reduce or expand the number of results.

### 1. Basics

**Phrases** – enclose phrases “in quotations marks” when included in searches.

If you are searching for a title that ends in a question mark, the symbol should be removed from the search to ensure results will be returned

### 2. Boolean Search Operators - AND, OR, NOT

You can use these operators to create a very broad or very narrow search.

- **And** combines search terms so that each search result contains all of the terms. For example, **neonate and rash** returns only articles that contain *both* neonate and rash.
- **Or** combines search terms so that each search result contains at least one of the terms entered in the search.
- **Not** excludes terms. As an example, **neonate not infant** finds results that contain the word neonate. However it will then remove from those results any items that have the word infant. **Be careful using ‘NOT’ you can lose useful research material.**

### 3. Boolean and Parentheses (Brackets)

You can enclose search terms and their operators in parentheses to specify the *order in which they are interpreted*.

Information within parentheses is read first, for example, when you enter on one search line **(neonate OR newborn) AND alcohol** the search engine returns results containing either neonate or newborn as well as the word alcohol. (You can limit the search to specific fields or throughout the full text of articles)

If there are **nested parentheses** on one search line, the search engine processes the *innermost* parenthetical expression first, then the next, and so on until the entire query has been interpreted. For example, **((neonate OR newborn) AND enterocolitis) OR NEC** will see the system search for items with the words neonate or newborn but to be shown in the results, the articles must also include the word enterocolitis. The results will also show any items that contain the term NEC.

This search can be done in two ways. As shown above (all terms on one line) or as shown in the example below:

This search can be done in two ways. As shown above (all terms on one line) or using two lines as in the example shown here.

Register for NHS OpenAthens LKS Website

Searching: Health and care evidence, from Health Education England

(Neonate OR newborn) And Enterocolitis Select a Field (option: I) ▾

OR ▾ NEC Select a Field (option: I) ▾

AND ▾ Select a Field (option: I) ▾

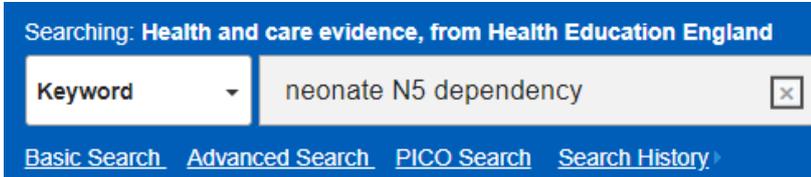
[Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [PICO Search](#) [Search History](#)

## 4. Proximity Searches

Proximity searching is a way to limit your search. It enables searching for two or more words that occur within a certain number of words from each other. The proximity operators are composed of a letter (N or W) and a number (to specify the number of words). The number cannot exceed 255.

**N – Near** The proximity operator is placed between the words that are to be searched, as follows:

In this example the system will return results that have the words neonate and dependency within 5 words of each other, regardless of the order they occur in an article.



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Keyword

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For example:



High **Dependency** Care in the **Neonate** The legal and ethical issues 

By: Speakman, L. In: *CLINICAL RISK* 8(6):241-242; Great Britain; CHURCHILL LIVINGSTONE, 2002. Language: English, Database: British Library Document Supply Centre Inside Serials & Conference Proceedings

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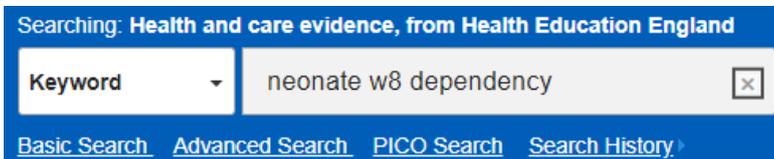
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Iodine status in **neonates** in Denmark: regional variations and **dependency** on maternal iodine supplementation 

By: Noehr, S. B.; Laurberg, P.; Boerlum, K.-G.; Pedersen, K. M. In: *ACTA PAEDIATRICA*. 83(6):578-578; Sweden: SCANDINAVIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1994., Database: British Library Document Supply Centre Inside Serials & Conference Proceedings

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**W – Within.** Using W finds the words in the order in which you entered them.



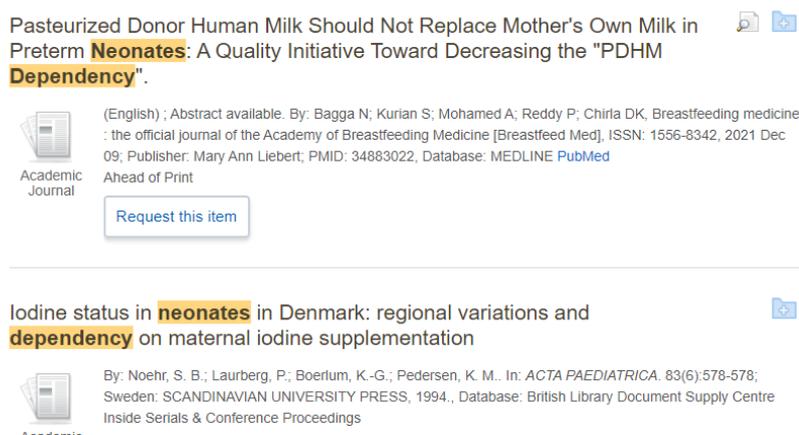
Searching: Health and care evidence, from Health Education England

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In this example the system will return results that have the words neonate and dependency within 8 words of each. However, they must be in the order typed in your search.

For example:



Pasteurized Donor Human Milk Should Not Replace Mother's Own Milk in Preterm **Neonates**: A Quality Initiative Toward Decreasing the "PDHM **Dependency**".  

(English) ; Abstract available. By: Bagga N; Kurian S; Mohamed A; Reddy P; Chirla DK, Breastfeeding medicine : the official journal of the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine [Breastfeed Med], ISSN: 1556-8342, 2021 Dec 09; Publisher: Mary Ann Liebert; PMID: 34883022., Database: MEDLINE PubMed

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Within and Near can be used in more complex searches as shown below:

- (neonate OR newborn) N5 dependency
- Addiction W3 (newborn or infant)
- (Newborn or Preterm) W5 (enterocolitis or NEC)

## 5. Wildcards and Truncation

The use of 'wildcards' and 'truncation' symbols expand your search. There are 3 symbols - Asterisk \*; Hash # and question mark ? – see below for more information.

### 5.1 Asterisk \*

The asterisk (\*) can be used in a number of ways. (It is also known as the **truncation**) It is most often used to find multiple word endings. For example, typing **pregnan\*** will return results that include the terms pregnant, pregnancy, pregnancies

The asterisk can also be used **within** words to find multiple characters. For example, typing **hea\*one** will return results that include headphone, headstone, hearthstone.

The symbol can also be used **between** words to match any single word. For example, a search for **midsummer \* dream** will return articles with the phrases, midsummer nights dream and midsummer day's dream.

### 5.2 Hash #

To use the # wildcard, enter your search terms and place # where an alternate spelling **might** contain an extra character. For example, type **colo#r** to find all articles that contain the word **color** or **colour**. Type **p#ediatric** to find all articles with the words **pediatric** or **paediatric**.

### 5.3 Question-Mark ?

To use ? enter your search terms and replace the unknown character with the question mark symbol. For example, type **wom?n** to find all items containing **woman** or **women**.

### 5.4 Combining Wildcards

Wildcards can be combined in a search term. For example, the following searches are allowed.

Search Term	Example Matches
colo#r*	colorblind coloring colorings colorization colorize colorized colouring colourings colourisation colourization colourize colourized colourizing . . .
p#ediatric*	pediatric pediatrics pediatrician pediatricians paediatric paediatrics paediatrician paediatricians . . .

### 5.5 Restrictions When Using Wildcards

Wildcards are **not** allowed as the **first** character in a search term.

If there is only **one** letter before a wildcard then, there must be at least **one additional** letter within the **first four** characters. For example:

**f#r\*** (allowed because two letters are within the first four characters)

**f??\*** (not allowed because only one letter within the first four characters)

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