



How PubMed Works: Medical Subject Headings Handout

1. The National Library of Medicine's Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) is a special type of vocabulary that represent terms in the biomedical literature. What is the name of this type of vocabulary?
2. How are MeSH terms organized within the MeSH database?
3. How often are MeSH terms revised?
4. When searching with a broad MeSH term, all the narrower more specific terms below will automatically be included in your search. What is the name of this feature?
5. Will your PubMed search details show all the narrower terms included in your search? Yes or No.
6. Which two places must you check to find all terms that will be included in your PubMed search?
7. Exercise #1: When you run a search in PubMed using the MeSH term Fear, what other MeSH terms will automatically be included in your search?
8. What is the name given to the term that is synonymous or close in scope to the preferred MeSH term?
9. What are the four types of MeSH terms?



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10. What is the purpose of applying a subheading to a MeSH heading during the indexing process?

11. Do Subheadings explode? Yes or No.

12. When building your search in MeSH, which Boolean operator will be applied if you choose more than one subheading at a time?

13. When viewing the MeSH terms on a PubMed record, the major points of an article are marked by what symbol?

14. "Publication Types" in MeSH can describe what three categories of information related to the article or to the research?

15. Are Supplementary Concepts part of the MeSH hierarchy? Yes or No.

16. Exercise #2: True or False? Searching with the subheading therapy will include results indexed with the subheading surgery?

17. Exercise #3: Go to MeSH and look up hand washing. How far back can you search for this concept using this MeSH term?