Problem/Issue/Question:

Research Question:

Break Question Into Concepts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept/ Term #1</th>
<th>Synonyms/ Related Concepts (Other Ways to Describe) “Background Information”</th>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept/ Term #2</th>
<th>Synonyms/ Related Concepts (Other Ways to Describe) “Background Information”</th>
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<th>Concept/ Term #3</th>
<th>Synonyms/ Related Concepts (Other Ways to Describe) “Background Information”</th>
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<th>Concept/ Term #4</th>
<th>Synonyms/ Related Concepts (Other Ways to Describe) “Background Information”</th>
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Possible Databases to Use:

- PubMed: Medical Topics (largest database)
- CINAHL: Nursing and Allied Health Topics
- PsycNet: Psychology & Psychiatry Topics
- Acad. Search Complete: General Database
- Web of Science: Science Database
- Cochrane Library: Systematic Reviews

Possible Limits to be Applied:

Gender:
  ___ Male
  ___ Female

Species:
  ___ Humans
  ___ Animals

Age Groups: (may differ by database)
  ___ All Ages
  ___ Adolescent (13—18 yrs.)
  ___ Adult (19 - 44 yrs.)
  ___ Middle aged (45 - 64 yrs.)
  ___ Elderly (65 - 79 yrs.)
  ___ Aged (> 80 yrs.)

Languages: English Only

Other Languages: ________

Years to be Covered:

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✓ Known Authors/Researchers in the Field

1)

2)

✓ Relevant Citations:

Authors __________________________________________
Title __________________________________________
Source Title _________________________________ v. _____ no. _____ date ____________

Authors __________________________________________
Title __________________________________________
Source Title _________________________________ v. _____ no. _____ date ____________

♦ If you find a good article, search for it in PubMed, CINAHL or another database that has a controlled vocabulary and see how it is indexed. This will allow you to find terms that may be useful to find articles on the same topic.

✓ Useful Terms and Databases Searched (Controlled Vocab Terms & Keywords) - Search at Least Two Databases

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database/Source #1</th>
<th>Database/Source #2</th>
<th>Database/Source #3</th>
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### Controlled Vocabulary (Subject Heading)

- May provide terms that can broaden or narrow search
- Accounts for most common synonyms
- Retrieve all items in database indexed under the topic

### Keyword

- Retrieve synonyms, jargon, new or distinctive words
- Identify relevant articles quickly to find appropriate controlled vocabulary

### Advantage

- Recently coined terms may not have a subject term assigned
- Can be difficult to find if no list of subject terms is included in the database

### Disadvantage

- May retrieve irrelevant articles
- Your search must account for synonyms and alternative terms

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### Tips & Reminders to Perform a Good Search

- Consider what you want to know & create a question to focus your search.
- Choose the database or resource that is the best to answer your question.
  - CINAHL: Good resource when problem falls within the scope of nursing & allied health practice.
  - PubMed: Good resource when problem is medical in nature or if you are unsure where to start.
- Search Concepts Separately & Combine with Boolean Operators – *Easier to manipulate your search.*
- Always come up with synonyms for your search terms/concepts
- Use Subject Headings/Controlled Vocabulary Whenever Possible.
  - Keyword Searching: Use quotes to search for phrases like “pressure ulcer”
- Start your search broad and then make it more focused as you see what is in the literature.
- Never hesitate to adjust your search strategy once you evaluate your results.

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### Boolean Operators:

**AND**

(Pressure Ulcer AND Nursing Home)

- Pressure Ulcer
- Nursing Home

Retrieves records that contain *BOTH* terms entered

**OR**

(Pressure Ulcer OR Bedsore)

- Pressure Ulcer
- Bedsore

Retrieves records that contain either *ENTERED* term

**Not**

(Nursing Home NOT Pressure Ulcer)

- Pressure Ulcer
- Nursing Home

Retrieves records that exclude the term following the operator