

10 Step Guide to NHS Healthcare Databases

1. Introduction

Anyone working for the NHS in London can access and search 8 healthcare databases: AMED, BNI, CINAHL, EMBASE, Health Business Elite, HMIC, MEDLINE, and PsycINFO. This guide gives an overview of how to search these databases to quickly find relevant information (predominantly journal literature) on your chosen topic(s).

For complex searches we would recommend that you see our guide: ***Searching NHS Healthcare Databases.***

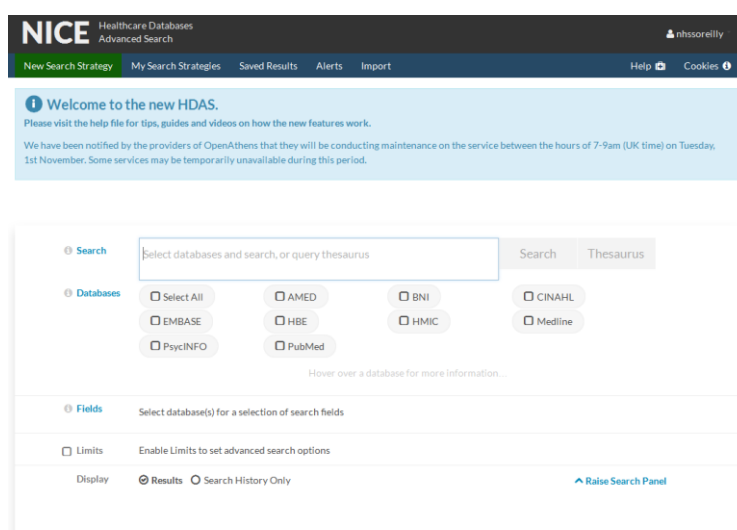
2. Register for NHS OpenAthens

The databases are accessible anywhere using an OpenAthens login. You can self-register for an OpenAthens Account at <https://openathens.nice.org.uk> from any PC on the Trust network or with a NHS email address. If you have any problems with the self-registration process contact your local Athens Administrator on **020 8725 5433** or email liaison@sgul.ac.uk

3. Planning your search

It may help you to think of your topic as a question, then you can break down your question into its main concepts/keywords. You will also need to choose the most appropriate database(s) for your search. Database information about can be found in the help guide <https://hdas.nice.org.uk/help/>

4. Accessing a database



Go to <https://hdas.nice.org.uk/> and login with your OpenAthens username and password at the top right of the screen. This will allow you to access all databases. Alternatively, you can just search the PubMed database without logging in.

Once logged in, you can select which database you want to search. Search databases one at a time, so that you can use thesaurus subject headings and apply limits to your search results. You can then repeat the search in another database.

5. The search screen

Whichever database you access, the search screen will look similar to the one below:

The screenshot shows a search interface with the following elements and callouts:

- 1** points to the search input field labeled "Select databases and search, or query thesaurus".
- 2** points to the "Fields" section, which includes buttons for "ti Title", "ab Abstract", "au Author", "is ISSN", and "jn Journal Name".
- 3** points to the "Limits" section, which includes a checkbox for "Limits" and a "Display" section with "Results" selected and "Search History Only" as an option.
- 4** points to the "Thesaurus" button.
- 5** points to the "Search" button.
- 6** points to the "Databases" section, which includes buttons for "Select All", "AMED", "BNI", "CINAHL", "EMBASE", "HBE", "HMIC", "PubMed", and "Medline".

- 1 – **Search box** - enter the first keyword or phrase you selected when planning your search – **do not** type in whole sentences or words such as 'in' 'of' etc. (See step 7 for **combining searches**).
- 2 – **Fields** - allows you to specify which fields are searched, e.g. author, title.
- 3 – **Limits** - to apply to a search, e.g. English language, dates.
- 4 – **Thesaurus** – select this button to run a search for subject headings.
- 5 – **Search** - select this button to run a basic or keyword search.
- 6 – **Databases** – to select a database.

N.B. the options in 2 and 4 vary between databases.

Search results are displayed below the search screen. You can view details of articles individually by clicking on their links. If an article is available online it will have a '**Full text available**' link will be displayed below the entry.

Syntax troubleshooting – this feature will highlight any search strategy errors.

6. Search history

From here you can **save searches, view results** and **delete searches**

The screenshot shows a search history interface with the following elements and callouts:

- 1** points to the "Current search strategy" input field.
- 2** points to the "Save Strategy" button.
- 3** points to the "View Results" link for the first search.
- 4** points to the "Edit" link for the first search.
- 5** points to the "Delete" icon for the first search.
- 6** points to the "View Results" link for the second search.

	Database(s)	Search Term		
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Medline	diabetes	View Results (393,181) Edit
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Medline	(exercise).ti,ab	View Results (203,331) Edit
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Medline	(1 AND 2)	Viewing (11,000)

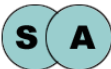

All [Rerun Searches](#) [Copy](#) AND OR [Combine](#) [Delete Selected](#) [Export Options](#)

11,000 combined results for (1 AND 2): ~"(diabetes).ti,ab AND (exercise).ti,ab"

You can also combine searches, and edit search lines.

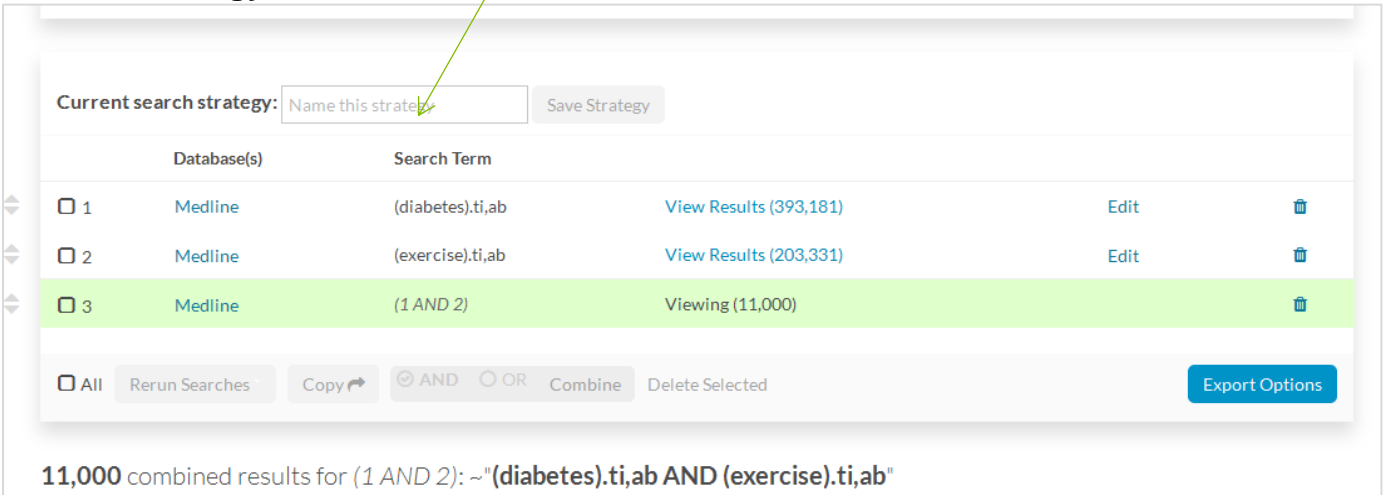
7. Combining searches

Tick the boxes of the lines of the searches you wish to combine (e.g. 1 and 2) and then select AND or OR using the logic below, before clicking on **Combine**:

stress OR anxiety		Documents that discuss either stress or anxiety
stress AND anxiety		Documents that discuss both stress and anxiety

8. Saving searches and results

To save a search use the **Current search strategy** field to give your search a name, then click the **Save Strategy** button.



Current search strategy: Save Strategy

	Database(s)	Search Term		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Medline	(diabetes).ti,ab	View Results (393,181)	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Medline	(exercise).ti,ab	View Results (203,331)	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Medline	(1 AND 2)	Viewing (11,000)	

All [Rerun Searches](#) [Copy](#) AND OR [Combine](#) [Delete Selected](#) [Export Options](#)

11,000 combined results for (1 AND 2): ~"(diabetes).ti,ab AND (exercise).ti,ab"

You can also save individual articles by ticking the box(es) on the left hand side and then clicking the **Add to Saved** button.



Medline
1/393,180
1.51 seconds

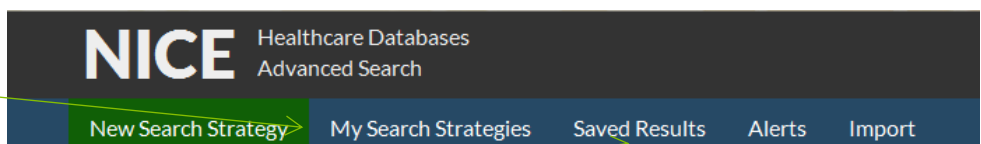
All on this page [Add 1 to Saved](#) [Show Abstracts Titles Only](#) [Expand Full-Text](#) View: 10 25 50 100 Sort: Unsorted

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Next >

1. [Diabetes Risk Calculator: a simple tool for detecting undiagnosed diabetes and pre-diabetes.](#)

Author(s) Heikes, Kenneth E; Eddy, David M; Arondekar, Bhakti; Schlessinger, Leonard
Source Diabetes care; May 2008; vol. 31 (no. 5); p. 1040-1045
Publication Date May 2008

To retrieve saved searches click on **My Search Strategies** at the top of the screen. To retrieve saved results use **Saved Results**.

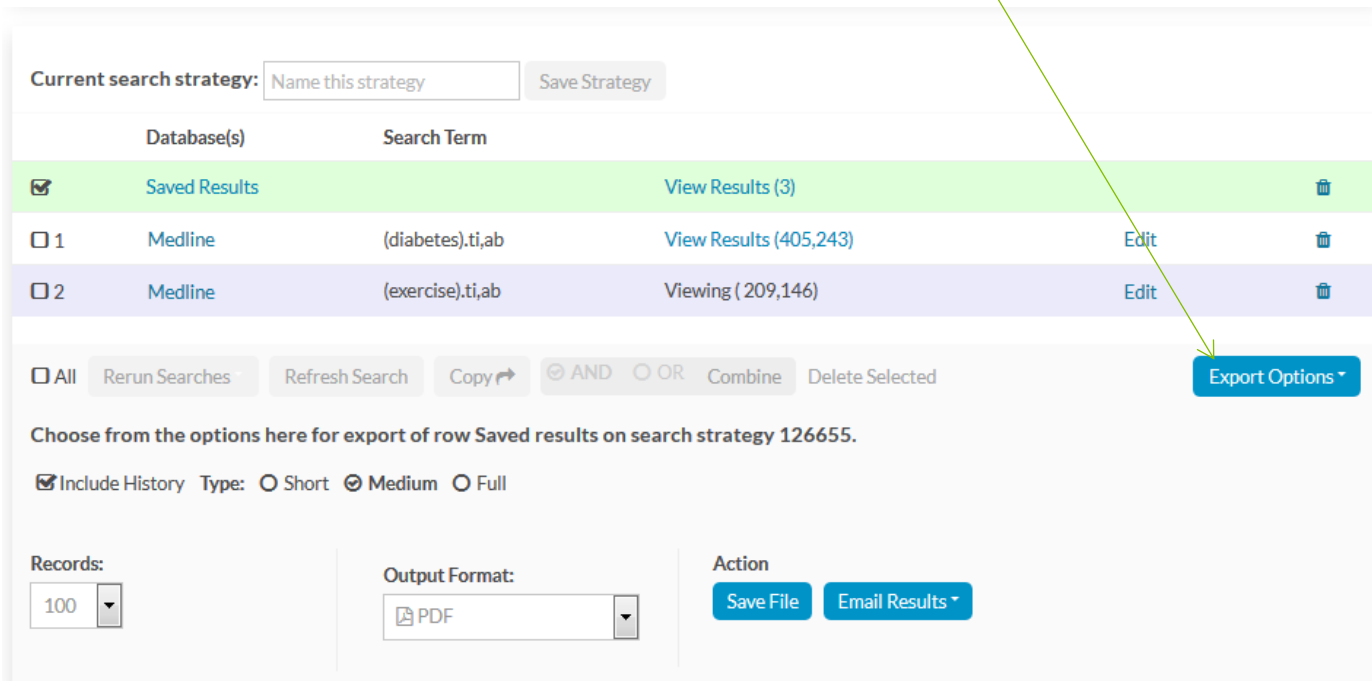


NICE Healthcare Databases
Advanced Search

[New Search Strategy](#) [My Search Strategies](#) [Saved Results](#) [Alerts](#) [Import](#)

9. Emailing and Exporting

Search results can be exported or emailed. You can choose to email or export all the results in a search row or just select articles using the **Saved Results** row. Once you have decided which results to export/email click the checkbox next to that row, the **Export Options** button will then become active.



The screenshot shows a search results interface. At the top, there is a 'Current search strategy' section with a text input 'Name this strategy' and a 'Save Strategy' button. Below this is a table with columns 'Database(s)' and 'Search Term'. The first row is highlighted in green and labeled 'Saved Results' with a checkbox and a 'View Results (3)' link. The second row is labeled '1 Medline (diabetes).ti,ab' with a checkbox, 'View Results (405,243)' link, and an 'Edit' button. The third row is labeled '2 Medline (exercise).ti,ab' with a checkbox, 'Viewing (209,146)' link, and an 'Edit' button. Below the table, there are buttons for 'All', 'Rerun Searches', 'Refresh Search', 'Copy', and search filters 'AND', 'OR', 'Combine', and 'Delete Selected'. A blue 'Export Options' button is visible on the right. Below the table, there is a section for 'Choose from the options here for export of row Saved results on search strategy 126655.' with a checked 'Include History' checkbox and radio buttons for 'Type: Short', 'Medium', and 'Full'. At the bottom, there are 'Records:' (set to 100), 'Output Format:' (set to PDF), and 'Action' buttons for 'Save File' and 'Email Results'.

A choice of format options are available including: the choice between short, medium, or full record transcript; the number of records to export or email; and choice of PDF, Word, Excel, or RIS document format. To export results select **Save File** and to email results select **Email Results**.

10. Further information and support

For more help, download our comprehensive 'Searching the NHS Healthcare Databases' guide. Help can also be found on our website <http://www.library.sgul.ac.uk/nhs-staff> or by contacting:



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