Boolean Operators (and, or, not)

Boolean Operators define the relationships between words or groups of words.

**AND** - Narrows your search and retrieves records containing *all* of the words it separates.

Example: bedsore and treatment

You may use and again, adding yet another keyword to further narrow your search.

Example: bedsore and treatment and outcome

This will search for all three terms appearing within text.

**OR** - Broads the search by searching text for synonyms of keywords.

Example: bedsore or decubitus or pressure ulcer
This is a means of broadening your search by using synonyms to cover a wider selection of text. You are not searching for all the terms as you did with and; you are searching for any of these terms.

**NOT**-NARROWS the search by eliminating unnecessary concepts, and by searching for records that do not contain certain terms.

Example: cancer **not** lymphoma

In this case, you are eliminating the term lymphoma so that your search results will not have records containing this term.

**OTHER BOOLEAN SELECTIONS**

**NESTING:**

You may use any of the three Boolean operators together in a search string:

Example: (bedsore or decubitus) **not** treatment

    decubitus **and** (treatment or care)

**WILDCARDS:** Symbols (? or * or $) will expand the scope of your search:

Example: Search for an alternative spelling (**wom*n**) = women, woman.
**TRUNCATION:** Expands search to include all forms of a root word:

Example: using (nurs?) = nurse, nurses, or nursing.