Locating Clinical Guidelines
Cochrane, CINAHL, Google, & PubMed

Search for clinical practice guidelines in the Cochrane Library database:
- Select Cochrane Library from the list of databases available at SPC libraries
- Type keyword/subject in search box
- Click on Search button

Sample Search
- Type 2 diabetes

- Review the search results list to locate an appropriate clinical guideline:

Limit results by type (Reviews or Protocols)
Sort results by date & relevance
Search for clinical guidelines in the CINAHL database:

- Select CINAHL from the list of databases available at SPC libraries
- Select Advanced Search
- Type keyword/keywords into search box/boxes, set a specified date range, and select Practice Guidelines as the Publication Type
- Select Search
- Carefully review results list to locate a clinical practice guideline
Search Google for clinical practice guidelines:

Note: Try including Google Search Operators to refine or limit your results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search Operator Symbol</th>
<th>Use</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>..</td>
<td>Search for specific dates (narrows your search)</td>
<td>2012..2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Results contain either word typed before and after OR (broadens your search)</td>
<td>children OR juvenile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot;</td>
<td>Quotation marks instruct Google to search for all the words contained within the quotation marks in the exact order they are typed. (narrows your search)</td>
<td>“type 2 diabetes”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site:</td>
<td>Instructs Google to search for information only located on a specific domain or website. (narrows your search)</td>
<td>Site:.gov (information from government websites only) Site:.diabetes.org (information from American Diabetes Association website only)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Go to [https://www.google.com/](https://www.google.com/)
- Type keywords in search box. Choose from the following phrases and use as one of your keywords:
  - “practice guideline”
  - “clinical guidelines”
  - “clinical practice guideline”
  - “clinical pathway”
  - “position statement”
  - “practice recommendations”
  - “practice standards”

- Sample search statements with Google search operators:
  - “type 2 diabetes” AND “practice guideline”
  - “type 2 diabetes” AND (“practice guideline” OR “clinical practice guideline”)
  - “type 2 diabetes” AND (“clinical guidelines” OR “position statement”)
  - Limit search to a specific website domain (.gov/.org/.edu) or website with the Google search operator Site: and the website domain or homepage URL:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Search Statement using Site:.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government agency website domains end in .gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University/College website domains end in .edu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational website domains end in .org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Optometric Association prepares clinical practice guidelines. Limit results to this organization’s website <a href="https://www.aoa.org/">https://www.aoa.org/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Google, 2017)
Search for clinical practice guidelines in the PubMed.gov database:

- Go to https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/
- Select Advanced
- Use the search Builder to locate a clinical guideline:

  Select **Publication Type** for the first Field box

  Type **Practice Guideline** in the first Search box

  Type **Keywords** into remaining Search boxes

- Carefully review results list to locate a clinical practice guideline