This handout illustrates how to conduct an advanced search using key terms/alternative terms/potential search terms from a generative search table. The generative search table should be completed during the PICO Search Strategy phase of a research project.

### Sample Generative Search Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original (Key) Terms</th>
<th>Alternative Terms</th>
<th>Potential Search Terms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>type 2 diabetes</td>
<td>diabetes, diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>&quot;type 2 diabetes&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>children</td>
<td>adolescent, teen, pediatric, juvenile</td>
<td>children OR teen*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sugary sodas</td>
<td>soft drink, soda, sugar, sucrose</td>
<td>(soda OR &quot;soft drink&quot;) AND sugar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Open the **CINAHL Complete** database

- Select Advanced Search

**Conduct First Search for Key Term #1**

- Complete a search using the Key Terms combined with alternative terms or potential search terms

When searching alternative terms, be sure to use the **Boolean Operator OR** between each term.

Go to the Limit Results area and type years in Published Date. Also, select the box under Peer Reviewed.
Select Search

After the Search Results page appears, click on Clear

The first search will be cleared from the search boxes

Conduct Second Search for Key Term #2

Complete a search using the Key Terms combined with alternative terms or potential search terms

When searching alternative terms, be sure to use the Boolean Operator OR between each term.

Select Search

After the Search Results page appears, click on Clear

The second search will be cleared from the search boxes
Conduct Third Search for Key Term #3

- Complete a search using the Key Terms combined with alternative terms or potential search terms

When searching alternative terms, be sure to use the Boolean Operator OR between each term.

- Select Search
- After the Search Results page appears, click on Clear
- The third search will be cleared from the search boxes

Conduct Fourth Search (combines all three previous searches together)

- Select Search History

- After the Search History/Alerts area appears, click on the box to the left of each Search ID# (these are the searches that were previously conducted)
- Select Search with AND
Click on the box next to each Search ID# (these are the searches that were previously conducted)

- Select Search

The Search ID# for each previous search is combined and added to search box.

View Results (of fourth search)

- Select View Results under the Actions column to view fourth search (this is the combination of search #1, #2, & #3)

Note: The Search History/Alerts displays all four searches conducted in this example. The searches are identified by a Search ID# and they are numbered (S1, S2, S3, & S4).