Planning Your Keyword Search Example

1. Describe your search as a question or sentence. **How does exposure to smokers affect children who have asthma?**

2. What are the major topics or concepts included in the search question or sentence?

   Topic/Concept 1  
   _______ smoking _______ AND _______ children _______ AND _______ asthma _______

3. What synonyms, alternative words, and/or related words also describe the major topics or concepts?

   Topic/Concept 1  
   OR _______ secondhand smoke _______ OR _______ child _______ OR _______ allergies _______

   OR _______ second hand smoke _______ OR _______ pediatrics _______ OR _______ allergy _______

   OR _______ smokers _______ OR ______________________ OR ______________________

4. Use the major topics, synonyms and alternative words listed above to write a search strategy. Place quotation marks around word phrases. Use a truncation symbol (asterisk is most common) when appropriate. Remove unwanted keywords from your search using NOT. Most databases do not require that AND, OR, NOT be typed in upper case, but PubMed is the exception!

   ( **smoking** OR **smoker*** OR "**secondhand smoke**" OR "**second hand smoke**" ) AND

   ( **child*** OR **pediatric*** ) AND

   ( **asthma** OR **allerg*** ) NOT

   ( **teens** OR **teenage*** OR **adolescen*** )
**Planning Your Keyword Search**

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2. What are the major topics or concepts included in the search question or sentence?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic/Concept 1</th>
<th>Topic/Concept 2</th>
<th>Topic/Concept 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>____________________ AND ____________________ AND ____________________</td>
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   ( ____________________ OR ____________________ OR ____________________ OR ____________________ ) AND
   ( ____________________ OR ____________________ OR ____________________ OR ____________________ ) AND
   ( ____________________ OR ____________________ OR ____________________ OR ____________________ ) NOT
   ( ____________________ OR ____________________ OR ____________________ OR ____________________ )

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