MEDLINE is an excellent source of literature in the disciplines of medicine, surgery, dentistry, nursing, allied health and more. MEDLINE COMPLETE includes full-text journal articles from approximately 2,400 journals indexed in MEDLINE.

Use MEDLINE when you want to search literature for: medicine and surgery (primary subjects); nursing and midwifery (other subjects).

Go to hselibrary.ie and click on RESOURCES | EBSCO | EBSCOHOST WEB | MEDLINE COMPLETE.

Before you begin searching, analyze your topic for key concepts. Example: you wish to search for journal articles on the use of epidural injections for back pain. Your key concepts are:

- EPIDURAL INJECTIONS
- BACK PAIN

It's best to search for one concept at a time. Enter a keyword for your first concept in the search box at the top of the screen. Click SEARCH.
On the next screen, MEDLINE prompts you to choose a subject term to correspond with your keyword. Here, the standard subject term is INJECTIONS, EPIDURAL. Tick the box next to INJECTIONS, EPIDURAL. It's also usually a good idea to choose EXPLODE to retrieve more specific related subject terms.

Your SEARCH RESULTS display near the bottom of the next screen. A record of your search also displays in SEARCH HISTORY in the middle of the screen.
5. Enter Second Keyword
Search for your second key concept.

Enter your second keyword, BACK PAIN. Click SEARCH.

Tick the box next to the standard subject term, BACK PAIN. Choose EXPLODE and click SEARCH DATABASE.

Subject Term
Select the most relevant subject term(s).

Explode
Select EXPLODE to expand your search. The EXPLODE function will include more specific related subject terms.

Search
Click SEARCH DATABASE.
Your **SEARCH RESULTS** display near the bottom of the next screen. A record of your search also displays in **SEARCH HISTORY** in the middle of the screen.

**Combine**

Combine your searches to retrieve more targeted results.

**Search History**

Search results are **HERE**.

**Search Results**

Search results are **HERE**.

**Boolean Operators**

*Boolean Operators* are used to connect and define the relationship between your search terms. You can use *Boolean Operators* to either narrow or broaden your search results.

- Use **AND** in a search to:
  - Narrow your results
  - Instruct the database that all search terms must be present in the resulting records
  - Example: cloning **AND** humans **AND** ethics (CEH).

- Use **OR** in a search to:
  - Combine two or more similar concepts or synonyms
  - Broaden your results, instructing the database that any of your search terms may be present in the resulting records
  - Example: cloning **OR** ethics **OR** human.

Here, you wish to retrieve journal articles that discuss both **EPIDURAL INJECTIONS** and **BACK PAIN**. In **SEARCH HISTORY**, tick the boxes next to **SEARCH 1** (S1) and **SEARCH 2** (S2). Click **SEARCH WITH AND**.

Select the tick-boxes next to the searches you wish to combine.

The results of your combined searches display in the **SEARCH HISTORY** panel and near the bottom of the next screen.

Combined Searches
Your combined searches display as a new search in **SEARCH HISTORY**.

On the left-hand side of the screen, you have options to narrow your results, for example to full-text journal articles or to a specific date range.

Search Results
Limit and manage your search results.

Limits
Limit your search results; eg to full-text available articles only or to a specific date range.
Use the subject categories on the left-hand side of the screen to further refine your search. For example, click on **RADICULOPATHY** to retrieve articles on: **EPIDURAL INJECTIONS + BACK PAIN + RADICULOPATHY**.

There are also options on the left-hand side of the screen to narrow your results to specific journals or specific age groups. Hover over the magnifying glass to view the citation and abstract of any given journal article.

Some results will also display a link to PDF or other full text. Click on the link or PDF symbol to view the full-text journal article.
For more advanced ways of narrowing your results, click **SHOW MORE** under **REFINE RESULTS**.

Please note: the screen will become shaded and you may need to scroll down. Example: to retrieve randomized controlled trials, select **RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL** under **PUBLICATION TYPE** and click **SEARCH**.

**RCTs**
Select **PUBLICATION TYPE | RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL** to limit your search results to RCTs only.
Click the folder symbol to add journal articles you're interested in to the folder for use later in your search session. When you click ADD TO FOLDER the symbol will change to a yellow colour.

When you've finished adding journal articles to the folder, click on FOLDER at the top of the screen.

Once in FOLDER CONTENTS select the tick-boxes next to any of the journal articles you wish to keep. Selected journal articles may be emailed, printed or saved.

You may also set up a personal EbscoHost account to save articles, searches and alerts for future sessions.

Contact your local HSE South library for assistance: see www.hselibrary.ie | Your Local Library.

See also the advanced searching tutorial video below: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mq_41OPM8yU.