

# A guide to *Medline*

## What is Medline?

Medline is a database that lists over 11 million international journal articles related to clinical medicine published from 1966 to the present. Medline is produced by the U.S. National Library of Medicine.

## What can I do with it?

You can use this database to identify articles from a variety of disciplines including internal medicine, general medicine, primary care, family medicine, and general practice. Some nursing and dentistry articles are also included.

## How do I get to it?

To get to Medline:

- 1) Go to [www.shirp.ca](http://www.shirp.ca)
- 2) Click on the "Search for articles on your topic" link under the heading "Find an Article"
- 3) Scroll down the page until you see "Medline" in the alphabetical list
- 4) Click on the heading above the description
- 5) If you are accessing this database from outside a health region facility, you may be asked to log in if you have not done so already.



The main search screen for Medline is made up of:

- 1) Search History: keeps track of what you've looked for and how many results you got.
- 2) Search Box
- 3) "Map Term to Subject Heading": when this box is checked the database will automatically look for the subject that best fits your term.
- 4) Limits: allow you to limit your results to items that fit specific criteria. More limits are available by clicking on "Additional Limits".

The screenshot shows the Ovid MEDLINE search interface. At the top, there is a 'Search History' section with a table containing columns for 'Searches', 'Results', 'Search Type', and 'Actions'. A red box labeled '1' highlights the 'Searches' column. Below this is a 'Search' section with tabs for 'Basic Search', 'Find Citation', 'Search Tools', 'Search Fields', 'Advanced Ovid Search', and 'Multi-Field Search'. The 'Advanced Ovid Search' tab is selected. In the search area, there is a text input field containing 'flu shots' and a 'Search >' button. A red box labeled '2' highlights the search input area. To the left of the search box, there is a section for 'Enter Keyword or phrase (use "S" for truncation):' with a red box labeled '3' highlighting the text input area. Below the search box, there are radio buttons for 'Keyword', 'Author', 'Title', and 'Journal'. A red box labeled '4' highlights the 'Map Term to Subject Heading' checkbox, which is checked. Below the search box, there is a 'Limits' section with various checkboxes for 'Abstracts', 'Review Articles', 'Latest Update', 'English Language', 'Humans', 'Full Text', and 'Core Clinical Journals (AIM)'. A red box labeled '4' highlights the 'Humans' checkbox. At the bottom, there are 'Additional Limits' and 'Edit Limits' buttons.

This example illustrates searching MEDLINE to find information on **administering flu shots to children with asthma**. It is usually a good idea to look for different concepts one at a time, and link them later on using the Search History. Type *flu shots* in the search box. Make sure the "Map Term to Subject Heading" box is checked, then click the "Search" button.

The screenshot shows the Ovid MEDLINE search interface. At the top, there is a 'Search' section with tabs for 'Basic Search', 'Find Citation', 'Search Tools', 'Search Fields', 'Advanced Ovid Search', and 'Multi-Field Search'. The 'Advanced Ovid Search' tab is selected. In the search area, there is a text input field containing 'flu shots' and a 'Search >' button. A red oval highlights the search input area and the 'Search >' button. To the left of the search box, there is a section for 'Enter Keyword or phrase (use "S" for truncation):' with a red oval highlighting the text input area. Below the search box, there are radio buttons for 'Keyword', 'Author', 'Title', and 'Journal'. A red oval highlights the 'Map Term to Subject Heading' checkbox, which is checked. Below the search box, there is a 'Limits' section with various checkboxes for 'Abstracts', 'Review Articles', 'Latest Update', 'English Language', 'Humans', 'Full Text', and 'Core Clinical Journals (AIM)'. At the bottom, there are 'Additional Limits' and 'Edit Limits' buttons.

A list of subjects will come up that could be a match for your term. Check the boxes beside the terms that best fit what you are looking for and click on “Continue”. If there are no suitable terms, check the box for “Search as Keyword” at the bottom of the list.

“Explode” allows you to search for more specific terms as well as the term you chose. For example, a more specific term related to “Aged” would be “Frail Elderly”.

## Mapping Display

Your term mapped to the following Subject Headings:

Click on a subject heading to view more general and more specific terms within the tree.

Include All Subheadings

Combine selections with:

Select	Subject Heading	Explode	Focus	Scope
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Influenza Vaccines</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">I</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Influenza, Human</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">I</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Vaccination</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">I</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Preventive Health Services</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">I</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Attitude to Health</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">I</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Middle Aged</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">I</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Immunization Programs</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">I</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Aged</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">I</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Medicare</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">I</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">United States</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">I</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	flu shots.mp. search as Keyword			

You have the option to choose subheadings if you want to focus on a particular aspect of that term. Subheadings can be useful, but be cautious about choosing a subheading as this can narrow your search *too much*. In this case we will not choose a subheading. Click on “Continue” to finish searching for that term.

## Subheading Display

Subheadings for: **Influenza Vaccines**

Combine selections with:

Include All Subheadings (10257)

-- or choose one or more of these subheadings --

/ad - Administration & Dosage (3404)

/ae - Adverse Effects (1510)

/an - Analysis (86)

/bi - Biosynthesis (40)

/bl - Blood (9)

/cs - Chemical Synthesis (28)

/ch - Chemistry (82)

/cl - Classification (44)

/ct - Contraindications (65)

/du - Diagnostic Use (1)

/hi - History (34)

/im - Immunology (2826)

/ip - Isolation & Purification (141)

/me - Metabolism (19)

/pk - Pharmacokinetics (10)

/pd - Pharmacology (328)

/re - Radiation Effects (3)

/st - Standards (275)

/sd - Supply & Distribution (511)

/tu - Therapeutic Use (1184)

The results of the search are listed in the search history.

Search History (1 search) (Click to close) View Saved

<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲	Searches	Results	Search Type	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Influenza Vaccines/	10257	Advanced	Display More >>

Remove Selected Save Selected | Combine selections with: And Or RSS Save Search History

Search Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1950 to July Week 2 2009

Basic Search Find Citation Search Tools Search Fields **Advanced Ovid Search** Multi-Field Search

Enter Keyword or phrase (use "\*" or "S" for truncation):  Keyword  Author  Title  Journal  Map Term to Subject Heading  Universal Search Search >>

Repeat this process for the next term, *asthma*.

Search History (1 search) (Click to close) View Saved

<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲	Searches	Results	Search Type	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Influenza Vaccines/	10257	Advanced	Display More >>

Remove Selected Save Selected | Combine selections with: And Or RSS Save Search History

Search Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1950 to July Week 2 2009

Basic Search Find Citation Search Tools Search Fields **Advanced Ovid Search** Multi-Field Search

Enter Keyword or phrase (use "\*" or "S" for truncation):  Keyword  Author  Title  Journal  Map Term to Subject Heading  Universal Search Search >>

▼ Limits (Click to close)

Abstracts  English Language  Full Text  
 Review Articles  Humans  Core Clinical Journals (AIM)  
 Latest Update

Publication Year - -

Additional Limits Edit Limits

To combine the two terms for your search, check off the searches you want to combine and click on the “And” button. When you use AND your final results will only list articles that fit both requirements: they are about influenza vaccines AND asthma.

Search History (2 searches) (Click to close) View Saved

<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲	Searches	Results	Search Type	Actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	Influenza Vaccines/	10257	Advanced	Display More >
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	Asthma/	87053	Advanced	Display More >

Remove Selected Save Selected Combine selections with: **And** Or RSS Save Search History

The results of the combined search are listed in the Search History.

Search History (3 searches) (Click to close) View Saved

<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲	Searches	Results	Search Type	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Influenza Vaccines/	10257	Advanced	Display More >
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Asthma/	87053	Advanced	Display More >
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	1 and 2	174	Advanced	Display More >

Remove Selected Save Selected Combine selections with: And Or RSS Save Search History

To limit the results to articles that deal with children, click on the “Additional Limits” button in the green shaded area below the search history.

Basic Search Find Citation Search Tools Search Fields **Advanced Ovid Search** Multi-Field Search

Enter Keyword or phrase (use \* for truncation):  Search >>

Keyword  Author  Title  Journal

Map Term to Subject Heading  Universal Search

▼ Limits (Click to close)

Abstracts  English Language  Full Text

Review Articles  Humans  Core Clinical Journals (AIM)

Latest Update

Publication Year:  -

**Additional Limits** Edit Limits

“Additional Limits” allows you to limit your results to articles that meet specific criteria, such as language, publication date, age group, and publication type.

Make sure the search you want to limit is selected from the list at the top of the screen. Then choose your limits by clicking on the options presented in the lists below. If you want to select more than one limit from the same list, hold down the “Ctrl” key on your keyboard as you make your selections. For this question we will limit to “All child (0-18 years)” and “English”.

Click on “Limit a Search” to continue.

Select	#	Searches	Results	Search Type
<input type="radio"/>	1	Influenza Vaccines/	10257	Advanced
<input type="radio"/>	2	Asthma/	87053	Advanced
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	3	1 and 2	174	Advanced

**Limits**

Abstracts  
 Animals  
 Full Text  
 Core Clinical Journals (AIM)  
 English Language  
 Female  
 Review Articles  
 Latest Update  
 Male  
 Ovid Full Text Available  
 Humans

Publication Year: - -

To select or remove multiple items from a list below, hold down the Shift, Ctrl, or "Apple" key while selecting.

**Age Groups**  
All Infant (birth to 23 months)  
**All Child (0 to 18 years)**  
All Adult (19 plus years)  
Newborn Infant (birth to 1 month)  
Infant (1 to 23 months)

**Journal Subsets**  
AIDS/HIV Journals  
Core Clinical Journals (AIM)  
Bioethics Journals  
Biotechnology Journals  
Communication Disorders Journals

**Animal Types**  
Cats  
Cattle  
Chick Embryo  
Dogs  
Goats

**Languages**  
English  
**English**  
Espanol  
Estonian  
Finnish

**CheckTags**

**Publication Types**

The results of the limited search are listed in the Search History. Scroll down or click on “Display” to see the results.

#	Searches	Results	Search Type	Actions
1	Influenza Vaccines/	10257	Advanced	Display More >>
2	Asthma/	87053	Advanced	Display More >>
3	1 and 2	174	Advanced	Display More >>
4	limit 3 to ("all child (0 to 18 years)" and english)	95	Advanced	Display More >>

Remove Selected Save Selected | Combine selections with: And Or

Save Search History

Scroll through the list to see which articles interest you. If there is an “Ovid Full Text” link, or a “PDF Full Text” link, click on it to read the whole article. If there is no full text link available, click on the yellow “Find it!” button to find out if we have a subscription to the journal.

9. Safety of the intranasal, trivalent, live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) in children with intermittent wheezing in an open-label field trial.
- Gaglani MJ, Piedra PA, Riggs M, Herschler G, Fewlass C, Glezen WP.  
*Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal*. 27(5):444-52, 2008 May.  
 [Comparative Study. Journal Article. Research Support, N.I.H., Extramural. Research Support, Non-U.S. Gov't]
- UI: 18401289
- Authors Full Name  
 Gaglani, Manjusha J. Piedra, Pedro A. Riggs, Mark. Herschler, Gayla. Fewlass, Charles. Glezen, W Paul.
- ▶ View Abstract
- Find Similar Find Citing Articles
- 
10. Cost effectiveness of an inpatient influenza immunization assessment and delivery program for children with asthma.
- Teufel RJ 2nd, Basco WT Jr, Simpson KN.  
*Journal of Hospital Medicine (Online)*. 3(2):134-41, 2008 Mar.  
 [Evaluation Studies. Journal Article]
- UI: 18438789
- Authors Full Name  
 Teufel, Ronald J 2nd, Basco, William T Jr, Simpson, Kit N.
- ▶ View Abstract
- Find Similar Find Citing Articles

When you click on the “Find it!” button, a new window will open. If we have a subscription to the journal, you will see a message saying that full text is available. Click on one of the links to bring up the article (use the notes about the dates available to determine which is the best link to select).



**Title:** Influenza vaccination in adults with asthma: safety of an inactivated trivalent influenza vaccine.  
**Source:** The Journal of asthma [0277-0903] Kmiecik yr:2007 vol:44 iss:10 pg:817 -22

- ▶ [Full text available via EBSCOhost Biomedical Reference Collection: Comprehensive](#)  
 Available from 2001  
 Most recent 1 year(s) not available  
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- ▶ [Full text available via EBSCOhost Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection](#)  
 Available from 2001  
 Most recent 1 year(s) not available

In this case, we get the record for the article. Click on the PDF Full Text link to bring up the article.

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Searching: MEDLINE with Full Text | Choose Databases >

AN 18097856 in Select a Field (optional) Search Clear ?

and in Select a Field (optional)

and in Select a Field (optional) Add Row

Basic Search | Advanced Search | Visual Search | Search History/Alerts | Preferences >

1 of 1 | Return to Result List | Refine Search

Citation PDF Full Text

**Title:** Influenza vaccination in adults with asthma: safety of an inactivated trivalent influenza vaccine.

**Author(s):** [Kmieciak T](#); [Arnoux S](#); [Kobryn A](#); [Gorski P](#)

**Author's Address:** Department of Pneumology and Allergology, Medical University, Lodz, Poland.

**Source:** [The Journal Of Asthma: Official Journal Of The Association For The Care Of Asthma](#) [J Asthma] 2007 Dec; Vol. 44 (10), pp. 817-22.

Images

If we do not have a subscription to the journal you need, clicking on the “Find it!” button will bring up a new window with a link to request the article. Click on the link to get to an online request form.



**Title:** Cost effectiveness of an inpatient influenza immunization assessment and delivery program for children with asthma.

**Source:** Journal of hospital medicine [1553-5592] Teufel yr:2008 vol:3 iss:2 pg:134 -41

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