A step-by-step guide to Healthcare Databases Advanced Search

**Step 1 : Define your query**
Use PICO to define your query:
- **P**atient
- **I**ntervention
- **C**omparison
- **O**utcome

Is intranasal fentanyl better than parenteral morphine for managing acute pain in children?
- **P** Children
- **I** Fentanyl
- **C** Parenteral morphine
- **O** Alleviating pain

**Step 2 : Have your OpenAthens password ready**
Forgotten your password? Go to www.openathens.net or contact your campus library
Don't have a password? Register at openathens.nice.org.uk

**Step 3 : Log in and choose a database**
Go to http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/
Select Journals and databases, then Healthcare databases advanced search (HDAS)
Log in and choose a database to search e.g. Medline

**Step 4 : Enter your search terms**
Choose:
- **Natural terms (Keywords)** – title and abstract terms from a journal article
- **Subject headings (MeSH)** – the designated formal word.
- **Mapping** will help e.g. heart attack is mapped to myocardial infarction

**Step 5 : Combine search terms**
Combine words to limit or expand your search:
**Search example**
Biomaterials for nasal reconstruction
use “and” to combine e.g. nasal and reconstruction
use “or” to expand e.g. nasal or facial
use * to truncate e.g. biomaterial* also searches biomaterials
Combine search terms by using “Combine selected” option

**Step 6 : Limit your search**
Limit by year, age, male/female, publication type, clinical trial, case report, etc.

**Step 7 : Manage results**
See your results:
- View on screen – select view results
- Click on "Display Abstracts" to view Abstract for each article
- Email – includes full-text articles
- Save and import to reference management software
- Print – full-text articles / abstracts