

# Literature Search and Data Sources

In a short paragraph, please succinctly describe your search strategy, the key word(s) used, the date(s) of the search, and the data sources you accessed in identifying the highest quality evidence on your topic. By “data sources,” we mean sources such as Cochrane. Do not list the actual references you found in each source; simply include them in your bibliography.

We strongly recommend that you search the following freely accessible evidence-based sources of information and also consult our [EBM Toolkit](#).

## Websites for Sources of Evidence-Based Clinical Information:

### **Free Access**

[Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality](http://www.ahrq.gov) (www.ahrq.gov)

In particular, see [AHRQ's Effective Healthcare Reports](http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov) (effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov) on various clinical topics.

*Note: Many of these reports are published in AFP under the “[Implementing AHRQ Effective Health Care Reviews](#)” department collection.*

[Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews](http://www.cochrane.org) (www.cochrane.org)

Free for abstracts only, which in most cases provide the key findings of interest. The complete review requires a subscription. The Cochrane database contains systematic reviews of narrowly focused clinical questions (e.g., “Colchicine for treating acute gout attacks”) as opposed to broad, general reviews of topics (e.g., “Management of an acute gout attack”).

*Note: AFP publishes summaries of Cochrane abstracts in “[Cochrane for Clinicians](#).”*

[National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health](http://nccih.nih.gov) (nccih.nih.gov)

Although NCCIH has been criticized for political interference and questionable science, we include it in this list because there are few freely available comprehensive sources of information in this field.

[Trip](http://www.tripdatabase.com) (www.tripdatabase.com) (Turning Research Into Practice)

Contains links to a wide range of journal articles, medical organization clinical guidelines, online medical references, and other sources. A limited version is freely available; additional content requires an annual subscription.

[U.S. Preventive Services Task Force](http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org) (www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org)

Premier source of evidence-based, graded recommendations for clinical preventive services.

*Note: AFP publishes [Recommendations and Reports from the USPSTF](#) as well as CME case studies in the [Putting Prevention Into Practice](#) series.*

### ***Subscription Required***

Most of these are point-of-care clinical information and decision support tools. These sites provide important background information, but authors should review the primary source to use as a citation for the article.

DynaMed ([www.dynamed.com](http://www.dynamed.com))

Essential Evidence Plus ([www.essentialevidenceplus.com](http://www.essentialevidenceplus.com))

Includes POEMS (collections of patient-oriented evidence that matters).

Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database ([naturaldatabase.therapeuticresearch.com](http://naturaldatabase.therapeuticresearch.com))

Reviews of the use of natural medicines in the treatment of various diseases.

Natural Medicines ([naturalmedicines.therapeuticresearch.com](http://naturalmedicines.therapeuticresearch.com))

Database of dietary supplements, natural medicines, and complementary, alternative, and integrative therapies.

PEPID ([www.pepid.com](http://www.pepid.com))

UpToDate ([www.uptodate.com](http://www.uptodate.com))

To ensure adequate searching on your topic, we strongly recommend that the above sources be reviewed, in addition to a PubMed search using the Clinical Query function ([www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)). This is done by using the provided link, or by going to the PubMed home page, and selecting “Clinical queries” from the lower center of the screen.

### **Sample Data Sources paragraph:**

Data Sources: A PubMed search was completed in Clinical Queries using the key terms gout and hyperuricemia. The search included meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, clinical trials, and reviews. Also searched were the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Effective Healthcare Reports, the Cochrane database, DynaMed, and Essential Evidence Plus. November 18, 2017.