

Expert search filters in Ovid databases

An expert search filter is a series of search statements designed by an expert that refine your search, and reduce the results by omitting irrelevant articles.

The clinical queries limits in Ovid are examples of expert search filters because they limit retrieval when applied to a search. Each Ovid database has its own set of clinical queries on a variety of topics.

Expert search filters may be accessed via the clinical queries limits or via *My Searches and Alerts*. You must create an Ovid personal account to access these filters. There is an overlap in topics for expert search filters found in clinical queries limits and *My Searches and Alerts*; this fact sheet concentrates on the latter.

Filter types

Expert search filters are available for Ovid *Medline* and Ovid *Embase*. The filters cover different topics, for example: diagnosis, etiology, prognosis, therapy, meta-analysis, Cochrane, paediatric age group, developing countries, World Health Organisation (WHO), premature/preterm, and systematic reviews. Not all search filter topics are available in all databases.

The filters come from various sources including the Health Information Research Unit (HIRU) of McMaster University, Edward G. Miner Library, University of Rochester, and BestBETS.

How to apply a filter

1. Search your topic in an Ovid database such as *Medline*.
2. Select *My Account*.

The screenshot shows the Ovid website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Ovid logo, a 'My Account' link (highlighted with a red box and a red circle with the number 2), and other links like 'Ask a Librarian', 'Support & Training', 'Wolters Kluwer', 'Help', 'Feedback', and 'Logoff'. Below the navigation bar is a blue header with tabs for 'Search', 'Journals', 'Books', 'Multimedia', 'My Workspace', and 'What's New'. The main content area shows a 'Search History (5)' section with a table of search results. A red circle with the number 1 highlights the search history table.

#	Searches	Results	Type	Actions
2	albuterol/	10004	Advanced	Display Results More
3	(ventolin or salbutamol).mp.	7889	Advanced	Display Results More
4	1 and (2 or 3)	4858	Advanced	Display Results More
5	limit 4 to (english language and "all child (0 to 18 years)")	1982	Advanced	Display Results More

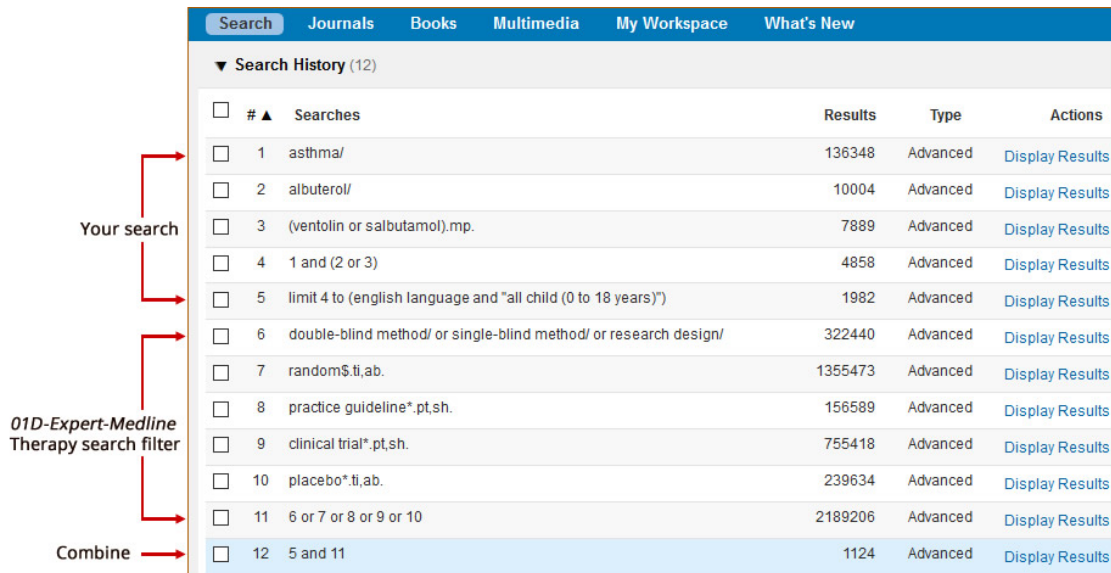
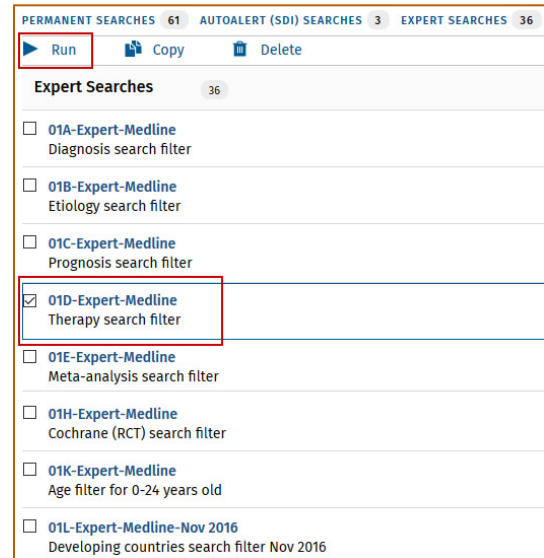
3. Enter your Ovid personal account name and password, or register for an Ovid Personal Account, then select *My Workspace* followed by *My Searches/Alerts*.

The screenshot shows the Ovid Personal Account Login form. The form has two input fields: 'Personal Account Name' with the value 'myaccount' and 'Password' with masked characters. Below the fields is a blue 'Login' button and a link for 'Forgot Account Name or Password'. To the right of the form is a section titled 'Don't have an Account?' with a person icon and text: 'Use a Personal Account to save searches, create alerts and manage research.' Below this text is a blue 'Create Account' link.

Expert search filters in Ovid databases

- See the list of all expert search filters.

Search filters are database specific, so select the required filter for the current database, for example *01D-Expert-Medline Therapy search filter*.
- Select *Run*.
- Combine the last line of your search with the last line of the expert search filter, for example: in the sample search below, combine lines 5 and 11.
- Limit your results further by applying another filter to the search, for example the meta-analysis search filter (*01E-Expert-Medline*) or the Cochrane search filter (*01H-Expert-Medline*).



You may also add or delete lines to your search filter, for example you might add or delete countries when using the *developing countries* filter.

More help

[Contact](#) the Library.