

Finding the evidence – which databases can I access?

Depending on where you work, you will have access to different healthcare or academic databases. Some databases are freely available, while others require you to set up an account or have a paid subscription. This guide aims to help you navigate the web of databases to find the evidence needed to make those all-important decisions. For details and further information, please contact your local library.

Freely available databases

1. The [Cochrane Library](#) is a collection of databases that contain different types of high-quality, independent evidence to inform healthcare decision-making, including:
 - The [Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews \(CDSR\)](#)
 - The [Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials \(CENTRAL\)](#)
 - [Cochrane Clinical Answers \(CCAs\)](#)
2. The **National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)** [Evidence Search](#) brings together high-quality evidence on health, drugs and technologies, public health, social care, and healthcare management and commissioning from over 800 organisations.
3. [PubMed](#) supports the search and retrieval of biomedical and life sciences literature through its database of more than 32 million citations and abstracts from MEDLINE, life science journals, and online books. It does not include full text journal articles, but links to the full text are often present when available from other sources, such as the publisher's website or [PubMed Central \(PMC\)](#).

Databases accessed through NHS England OpenAthens

You may be entitled to access a range of online health resources purchased by NHS England (NHSE) via OpenAthens if you are:

A. An employee, worker or contractor of NHS organisations which provide NHS-commissioned care in England.

Examples: NHS Trusts; GP practices; and NHS Treatment Centres.

B. An individual of non-NHS organisations which provide NHS-commissioned care in England working directly with NHS patients.

Examples: Independent, private, charitable and voluntary sector organisations; local authority organisations which provide NHS-commissioned care or work in partnership with the NHS to provide care to NHS patients; government-funded bodies which provide public health services and organisations that work in partnership with NHS organisations.

C. An employee, worker or contractor of organisations which commission care for NHSE patients.

Examples: Clinical Commissioning Groups, Commissioning Support Units; NHS England Area Teams; NHS Commissioning Boards; NHS Commissioning Support agencies; Local Authorities including those in a Public Health role.

A complete list of authorised NHS England OpenAthens users is available at <https://www.nice.org.uk/about/what-we-do/evidence-services/journals-and-databases/openathens/openathens-eligibility>.

To see which journals and databases you would have access to via NHS England OpenAthens, visit <https://www.nice.org.uk/about/what-we-do/evidence-services/journals-and-databases>. These resources are provided in partnership with Health Education England (HEE) and NICE.

To register for an NHS England OpenAthens account, go to <https://openathens.nice.org.uk/>.

Public Health England (PHE) knowledge and library services

PHE provides access to OpenAthens for **Local Authority Public Health (LAPH) Teams**. All LAPH staff are eligible for an OpenAthens account, which would allow you to access a range of resources, including PHE-subscribed e-resources (e-journals, EBSCO Discovery and BrowZine), as well as content provided by HEE and the NHS.

For a summary of the support and resources for LAPH Teams available through PHE, visit <https://phelibrary.koha-ptfs.co.uk/laph/>.

If you work for a LAPH Team, please select '*Public health staff in England*' as your organisation when registering for an [OpenAthens account](#).

For further enquiries, please contact the PHE library at libraries@phe.gov.uk.