

	MedLine	EBSCO	ProQuest	Embase	Scopus
Truncation	*	*	[*20]	*	*
Wildcard	# - character must be present ? – any or no character	# - any or no character ? – character must be present	?	? – one character & - one or no characters	? – character must be present
Exact phrase searching	Automatic	Quotes required	Quotes required	Single quotes. Will accept double quotes.	Curly brackets {} for exact phrases. Quotes “ ” for loose phrases.
Within N words	adj3	N3	NEAR/3	NEAR/3	W/3
Within N words in exact order	N/A	W3	PRE/3	NEXT/3	PRE/3
Field tag searching					
- title	.ti.	TI ---	ti(---)	:ti	TITLE(---)
- abstract	.ab.	AB ---	ab(---)	:ab	ABS(---)
- title or abstract	.ti,ab	TI --- OR AB ---	ti(---) OR ab(---)	:ti,ab	TITLE(---) OR ABS(---)
- keyword	.mp.	n/a	all(---)	:kw	TITLE-ABS-KEY(---)

Weird Database Quirks:

Ovid MedLine – when you're doing proximity searching in Ovid, it ignores stop words like of, a, the, is, and are. If you need to do an adjacency search that includes stop words, you can try truncating the stop word (although this, too, has its disadvantages).