Term Harvesting & Generation Guide

This document serves as a guide for generating search terms for comprehensive searching; depending on your topic, not all strategies will be relevant or necessary.

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|  | ***Concept/Strategy: Linguistic***  | ***Selected Examples*** |
|  | Alternate and variant terms mentioned in MeSH Browser |  |
|  | Plural forms, including irregular forms |  |
|  | Variant forms of main term, stemming of main term | Diabetes and diabetic |
|  | Synonyms |  |
|  | Thesaurus equivalents, also check glossaries |  |
|  | Abstract & title mining for equivalent terms  |  |
|  | British and American spellings | Hematology and haematology |
|  | Jargon (consider both professional and patient preferred terms) |  |
|  | Historic and archaic terms (previously used for this concept or related ones) |  |
|  | Acronyms (remember to disambiguate if words, or if has alternate meaning in different medical domain) | DFS (dentistry) = Decayed Filled SurfacesDFS (oncology) = Disease-Free Survival  |
|  | Acronyms spelled out in full  |  |
|  | Equivalent & related terms & concepts from textbooks |  |
|  | Slang or common vernacular  |  |
|  | Concepts of which this is a part |  |
|  | Concepts which create this concept when combined |  |
|  | Term translations in other languages (if potentially relevant) |  |
|  | Common spelling errors (only if they retrieve new content) |  |
|  | ***Concept/Strategy: Context*** | ***Selected Examples*** |
|  | If clinical: Anatomical site (or region) + presenting symptom | TMJD = Temporomandibular joint + Myofascial pain |
|  | If clinical: Anatomical site (or region) + disease category  | TMJD = Temporomandibular joint + Bone diseases |
|  | If clinical: Diagnostic tests or criteria | Diabetes and fasting plasma glucose or oral glucose tolerance test |
|  | If clinical: Lab tests used to monitor disease progression or treatment success | Diabetes and A1C |
|  | If clinical: Related enzymes, hormones, proteins, antibodies, etc. | Diabetes and insulin |
|  | If clinical: Disease precursors, related conditions, or sequelae | Dental caries and tooth demineralization. Diabetes and diabetic retinopathy |
|  | If clinical: Relevant comorbid conditions | Obesity and sleep apnea or osteoarthritis |
|  | If treatment: Anatomical site or system + specific modality |  |
|  | If pharmaceutical or chemical: chemical formula/symbols, registry numbers, CAS numbers |  |
|  | If microorganisms: historical names, taxonomic groups (these may be a challenge) |  |
|  | If materials: relevant ISO/ANSI standards and product identification numbers |  |
|  | ***Other:***  |  |
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