



In Search of: Information on Issues of Privacy and Confidentiality in the Use of Personal Health and Medical Records

Situation:

In the advent of both the HIPAA Privacy Rule of 1996 and the Patient Safety Act, effective January 19, 2009, concern about patient privacy and confidentiality has become an issue for all health practitioners. The spread of the availability, computerization, and voluntary reporting systems regarding patient records involves physical and mental health and medication histories. Research on many aspects of this topic can be found in APA databases.

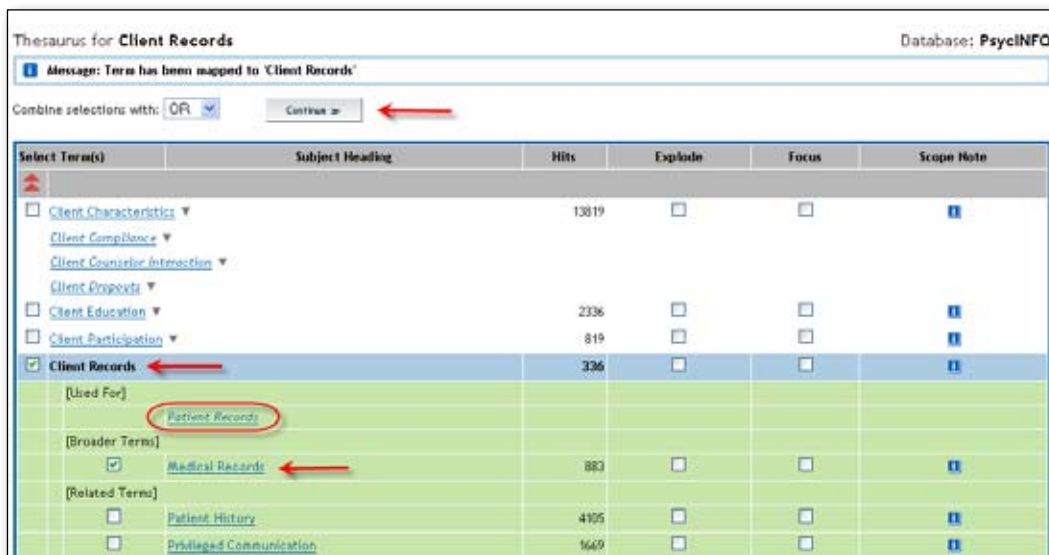
Build your search:

On the OvidSP database selection page, choose the database or databases you would like to search for this topic. Since this specific issue has recently come to the forefront in health and mental health professions, choose PsycINFO 1967-2009. In this search, you can use both the controlled vocabulary provided in the *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms* and natural language search strategies.

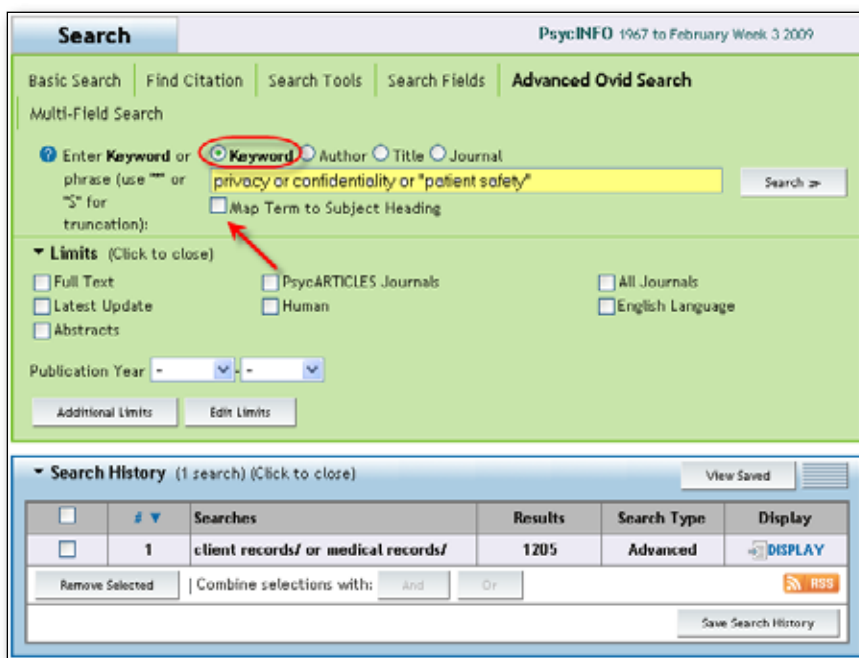
On the OvidSP search interface, go to the *Thesaurus* by clicking on the Search Tools link. Look for the term “patient records” using the Thesaurus radio button to search the alphabetical listing.



The results of this search indicate that the preferred term, which is used for documents discussing patient records, is **Client Records**. You also see within the term hierarchy the broader term, **Medical Records**. Select both of these terms by checking the box next to the term and combine your selections using the OR Boolean operator.



Returning to the Advanced Ovid Search screen, leave the Keyword radio button checked but uncheck the Map Term to Subject Heading box. A Keyword search in Ovid will search the title, abstract, heading word, table of contents (for book records), and key concepts. In the search box, enter natural language for privacy, confidentiality, and patient safety. Combine these concepts using the OR Boolean operator.



Once you have run that portion of the search, open your Search History to combine the two search results. Check the boxes next to Search 1 and Search 2, and then click on the AND Boolean operator to run the search.

The screenshot shows the PsycINFO search interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Basic Search', 'Find Citation', 'Search Tools', 'Search Fields', and 'Advanced Ovid Search'. Below these is a 'Multi-Field Search' section with radio buttons for 'Keyword', 'Author', 'Title', and 'Journal'. A search box and a 'Search' button are present. Below the search box is a 'Limits' section with various checkboxes for 'Full Text', 'Latest Update', 'Abstracts', 'PsycARTICLES Journals', 'Human', 'All Journals', and 'English Language'. There are also dropdown menus for 'Publication Year' and buttons for 'Additional Limits' and 'Edit Limits'. At the bottom, the 'Search History' section is expanded, showing a table with two rows. The first row is for Search 2 with 7470 results, and the second row is for Search 1 with 1205 results. Red arrows point to the checkboxes in the first column of the table, the 'And' operator in the 'Combine selections with' dropdown, and the 'Save Search History' button.

<input type="checkbox"/>	#	Searches	Results	Search Type	Display
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	(privacy or confidentiality or "patient safety").mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts]	7470	Advanced	DISPLAY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	client records/ or medical records/	1205	Advanced	DISPLAY

This strategy retrieves 159 results from the APA databases. You can add limits to this set of results by clicking on the Additional Limits tab, where you have the ability to add such limits as Treatment & Prevention, which restricts retrieval to documents about all aspects of medical, behavioral, and psychological treatment; publication year range; methodology, including Empirical Study; and population and age groups, among others.

Here is a sampling of titles that would be of relevance to your search topic:

Benefield, H., Ashkanazi, G., & Rozensky, R. H. (2006). Communication and records: HIPAA issues when working in health care settings. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 37, 273-277.

Bersoff, D. N. (2008). *HIPAA: Federal regulation of healthcare records*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Damschroder, L. J., Pritts, J. L., Neblo, M. A., Kalarickal, R. J., Creswell, J. W., & Hayward, R. A. (2007). Patients, privacy and trust: Patients' willingness to allow researchers access to their medical records. *Social Science & Medicine*, 64, 223-235.

- El Emam, K., Jabbouri, S., Sams, S., Drouet, Y., & Power, M. (2006). Evaluating common de-identification heuristics for personal health information. *Journal of Medical Internet Research, 8*, no pagination specified.
- Elewachi, A. O. (2008). Limitations to the utilization of electronic medical records by healthcare professionals: A case study of small medical practices. *Dissertation Abstracts International Section A: Humanities and Social Sciences, 69*, 793.
- Freeny, M. (2007). Whatever happened to clinical privacy. *Annals of the American Psychotherapy Association, 10*, 13-17.
- Mizani, M. A. & Baykal, N. (2007). A software platform to analyse the ethical issues of electronic patient privacy policy: The S3P example. *Journal of Medical Ethics, 33*, 695-698.
- Recupero, P. R. (2008). Ethics of medical records and professional communications. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America, 17*, 37-51.
- Shaughnessy, M., Beidler, S. M., Gibbs, K., & Michael, K. (2007). Confidentiality challenges and good clinical practices in human subjects research: Striking a balance. *Topics in Stroke Rehabilitation, 14*, 1-4.
- Taylor, J. A., Brownstein, D., Klein, E. J., & Strandjord, T. P. (2007). Evaluation of an anonymous system to report medical errors in pediatric inpatients. *Journal of Hospital Medicine, 2*, 226-233.
- Willison, D. J., Emerson, C., Szala-Meneok, K. V., Gibson, E., Schwartz, L., Weisbaum, K. M., Fournier, F., Brazil, K., & Coughlin, M. D. (2008). Access to medical records for research purposes: Varying perceptions across research ethics boards. *Journal of Medical Ethics, 34*, 308-314.