Information Mastery Open Workshop

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Information Mastery Workshop Overview

Welcome to the PAFP's Information Mastery Workshop. In this session, you will be able to get CME credit for finding answers to your own clinical questions. This overview will walk you through the process. If you have any questions along the way, Drew Keister, MD is available to assist you.

STEP 1: What is your question? Any medical question is fair game here. If it interests you, let's find the best answer that's available!

STEP 2: What type of question are you asking?

This isn't rocket science, but it definitely changes the way that you should search.

- A "**Background Question**" is a general question about conditions, illnesses, syndromes and patterns of disease, pathophysiology, etc.
    - An example is: What treatment options are available for Patellar tendonitis?
    - Answers to background questions can often be found in textbooks and in the introductory material about your topic on medical websites.

- A "**Foreground Question**" asks about the difference between two interventions or tests.
    - An example is: Are NSAIDs better than steroid injections to reduce pain and disability from Patellar tendonitis?
    - Answers to foreground questions are usually found in clinical trials, like those you can find on Pubmed. But, you can reduce your work by going to websites that do the analysis and searching for you.
    - Foreground questions are often asked in a "PICO" format (see step 3)

STEP 3: Getting specific about your question.
- Get the worksheet for your question type
    - Background ?? worksheet or PICO worksheet
- For foreground questions, think about:
    - **Patient-oriented outcomes-** patients tend to care about quality of life (how they feel, how they function), how often they need to access the health system and how long they live
    - Avoid **disease-oriented outcomes**- patients care much less about how much a medicine decreases their blood pressure or HgbA1c than whether it prevents them from having heart attacks

STEP 4: Search for your answer.
- Remember that not all questions have been perfectly answered. You might need to get more specific or more general, depending on what you find

STEP 5: Report your time and turn your paper in to be copied

Feel free to repeat as often as you'd like!!