Evidence Based Limits for CINAHL Publication Types in order by strength

**Systematic Review**
- Presents the current state of knowledge on a topic as a result of reviewing and synthesizing published research on the topic.

"According to available research, a normal body temperature for an adult…"


**Meta-Analysis**
- Often an overview of clinical trials and is usually called a meta-analysis by the author or sponsoring body.
- Combines the results of independent studies performed to evaluate therapeutic effectiveness, plan new studies, etc.
- Sometimes misused as a synonym for systematic reviews. Should be differentiated from reviews of literature.


**Research**
- An original research study containing data collection, methodology, discussion of results, etc.


**Standards**
- A formal standard of practice or position paper issued by a professional organization.

Example: Advancing the Preparticipation Physical Evaluation: An ACSM and FIMS Joint Consensus Statement. Clinical Journal Of Sport Medicine, 24(6), 442-447
Review

- Indicates a review of the published literature that can cover a wide range of subject matter of various levels of completeness or comprehensiveness.
- The presence of research findings or case reports does not preclude designation as a review.

Example: Safety Considerations of Inhaled Corticosteroids in the Elderly. Drugs & Aging, 31(11), 787-796

Clinical Trial

- Indicates the research study is a clinical trial, a randomized clinical trial, or a randomized controlled trial.

Example: A Pilot Study of Home-Based Smoking Cessation Programs for Rural, Appalachian, Pregnant Smokers. JOGNN, 44(2), 236-245

Case Study

- Indicates a review of a particular condition, disease, or administrative problem. Includes case reports.

Example: Acute Appendicitis: A Case Study Describing Standards of Care. Med-Surg Matters, 23(6), 3-15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication Types in Order by Strength of Evidence</th>
<th>Publication Types in Alphabetical Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Systematic Review</td>
<td>Case Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meta-Analysis</td>
<td>Clinical Trial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Meta-Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standards</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Trial</td>
<td>Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Study</td>
<td>Systematic Review</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References:
- Cochrane Glossary - http://www.cochrane.org/glossary/

Reviewed: April 2016