

OSH terms for PubMed (MeSH terms)

Chapter 4.2 of the book **Occupational Safety and Health Online. How to find reliable information**. Frank van Dijk and Yohama Caraballo-Arias, LDOH, November 2015.

This list of terms was developed during EBM/EBP courses at the AMC. The principal author is Frank van Dijk

This list presents the most appropriate MeSH term(s), when available, for the most common occupational safety and health topics. We also added related MeSH terms that might be worth considering. Using a MeSH term has many advantages:

- You avoid getting a disappointing low number of results, as a consequence of spelling errors (is it astma or asthma?) or of selecting a correct but less common term such as “work-related asthma” instead of the MeSH term “occupational asthma.”
- Automatically, synonyms and similar terms will be added to the search by PubMed. A term such as “musculoskeletal diseases” (MeSH) also automatically gives you publications with “musculoskeletal disease” so a choice for plural and singular is no problem when using a MeSH term: both terms will be used in the actual search. Even when you type another term such as “musculoskeletal disorders” in the search window, PubMed will give you the results of “musculoskeletal diseases” (MeSH) as well.
- Publications that have the subject mentioned in the paper, but where the subject is not prominent, will not be presented in your search outcomes, saving you time.

In this list we offer MeSH terms but no descriptions or definitions. These can be found in the glossary (chapter 4.3). Why to also use non-MeSH terms is explained in chapter 3.2 (PubMed) and in chapter 6 (Pubmed in Ten Steps).

PubMed / Medline MeSH and other terms relevant for OSH	PubMed / Medline Related MeSH terms relevant for OSH
absenteeism [Mesh]; sick leave [Mesh]; sickness absence; return to work	
accident prevention [Mesh]	
accidents, occupational [Mesh]	
acquired immunodeficiency syndrome [Mesh]	

activities of daily living [Mesh]	
adverse effects [Mesh subheading]	
aggression [Mesh]	
agriculture [Mesh]	agricultural workers' diseases [Mesh]
aids; acquired immunodeficiency syndrome [Mesh]	
air pollutants, occupational [Mesh]	air pollutants [Mesh]
air pollution, indoor [Mesh]	air pollution [Mesh]
aircraft [Mesh]	
alcoholism [Mesh]	
allergens [Mesh]	
allied health personnel [Mesh]	
antineoplastic agents [Mesh]	
antineoplastic agents [Mesh]	antineoplastic agents (pharmacological action) [Mesh]
asbestos [Mesh]	
asbestosis [Mesh]	
asthma [Mesh]	occupational asthma [Mesh]
attitude of health personnel [Mesh]	
attitude to health [Mesh]	
bacterial infections [Mesh]	
benchmarking [Mesh]	
benzene [Mesh]	
biologic monitoring	environmental monitoring [Mesh]
biological factors [Mesh]	
blood-borne pathogens [Mesh]	
burnout, professional [Mesh]	
cadmium [Mesh]	cadmium chloride [Mesh]; cadmium poisoning [Mesh]
Capacity	
carcinogens [Mesh]	
cardiovascular diseases [Mesh]	
career mobility [Mesh]	
career mobility [Mesh]	
carpal tunnel syndrome [Mesh]	
chemical hazards	
chemical industry [Mesh]	
child labor	employment [Mesh]
chromium [Mesh]	
chromosomal abnormality	chromosome disorders [Mesh]; chromosome aberrations [Mesh]
chromosome aberrations [Mesh]	chromosome disorders [Mesh]
chronic disease [Mesh]; non communicable diseases	
circadian rhythm [Mesh]	
clinical competence [Mesh]	
clinical nurses	nursing, supervisory [Mesh]
clinical trials; clinical trials as topic [Mesh]	
cohort studies [Mesh]	
communicable diseases [Mesh]	communicable diseases, emerging [Mesh]

community health nursing [Mesh]	community health workers [Mesh]
community health services [Mesh]	
confined spaces [Mesh]	
construction materials [Mesh]	
contact tracing [Mesh]	
convalescence [Mesh]	
cost of illness [Mesh]	
cumulative trauma disorders [Mesh]	
Danger	safety [Mesh]
data collection [Mesh]	
dermatitis, allergic contact [Mesh]	dermatitis, occupational [Mesh]
dermatitis, contact [Mesh]	allergic contact dermatitis [Mesh]; irritant dermatitis [Mesh]; eczema [Mesh]; dermatitis [Mesh]
dermatitis, occupational [Mesh]	dermatitis, allergic contact [Mesh]; irritant dermatitis [Mesh]; contact dermatitis [Mesh]; atopic dermatitis [Mesh]; eczema [Mesh]; dermatitis [Mesh]
diagnosis [Mesh]	
diagnostic services [Mesh]	
diagnostic techniques and procedures [Mesh]	
disability evaluation [Mesh]	work capacity evaluation [Mesh]
disability evaluation [Mesh]	
disability; incapacity	disabled persons [Mesh]
disability; incapacity; handicap	disabled persons [Mesh]
disabled persons [Mesh]	mentally disabled persons [Mesh]; mental retardation [Mesh]
disease outbreaks [Mesh]	
disease progression [Mesh]	
disease susceptibility [Mesh]	
disease transmission, infectious [Mesh]	infectious disease transmission, patient- to-professional [Mesh]; infectious disease transmission, professional-to-patient [Mesh]; infections disease transmission, vertical [Mesh]
disorders of environmental origin [Mesh]	
DNA damage [Mesh]	
dust [Mesh]	
ear protective devices [Mesh]	
early diagnosis [Mesh]	
early intervention	early intervention (education) [Mesh]
education, medical [Mesh]	education, medical undergraduate [Mesh]; education, medical graduate [Mesh]
electromagnetic fields [Mesh]	
employee performance appraisal [Mesh]	
employee;	

worker	
employment [Mesh]	
employment [Mesh]; work [Mesh]	
employment, supported [Mesh]; supported employment	
environment [Mesh]	social environment [Mesh]
environmental exposure [Mesh]	
environmental health [Mesh]	national institute of environmental health sciences (U.S.) [Mesh]
environmental monitoring [Mesh]	
environmental pollutants [Mesh]	environmental pollutants (pharmacological action) [Mesh]; air pollutants [Mesh]
environmental pollution [Mesh]	tobacco smoke pollution [Mesh]
epidemiologic measurements [Mesh]	
epidemiologic methods [Mesh]	
epidemiologic studies [Mesh]	
epidemiology [Mesh]	
ergonomic hazards; ergonomic risks; ergonomic risk factors	
ethics committees [Mesh]	
evaluation studies [Mesh]	
exercise therapy [Mesh]	
exercise tolerance [Mesh]	
experimental study	
fatigue [Mesh]	
fatigue syndrome, chronic [Mesh]	
formaldehyde [Mesh]	
Fume	
functional capacity evaluation	work capacity evaluation [Mesh]
genetic predisposition to disease [Mesh]	
guidelines; guideline (publication type) [Mesh]	guidelines as topic [Mesh]
hand-arm vibration syndrome [Mesh]	
hazardous substances [Mesh]	poisoning [Mesh]; air pollutants, occupational [Mesh]
health [Mesh]	
health behavior [Mesh]	
health care access	health services accessibility [Mesh]
health care evaluation; health care evaluation mechanisms [Mesh]	quality assurance, health care [Mesh]
health education [Mesh]	
health examinations for workers; health examinations for employees; workers' health surveillance	work capacity evaluation [Mesh]; mass screening [Mesh]
health personnel [Mesh]; health workers; health care workers	
health policy [Mesh]	
health promotion [Mesh]	

health questionnaires; health surveys [Mesh]	
health services [Mesh]; health care providers	
health services [Mesh]; health care	
health status [Mesh]	health status indicators [Mesh]
hearing loss, noise-induced [Mesh]	noise [Mesh]; tinnitus [Mesh]; noise, transportation [Mesh]; noise, occupational [Mesh]
hepatitis B [Mesh]	
hepatitis C [Mesh]	
HIV infections [Mesh]	
home care services [Mesh]	home care services, hospital based [Mesh]
hospitals [Mesh]	
human engineering [Mesh]	
hydrocarbons [Mesh]	
hypersensitivity [Mesh]	hypersensitivity, immediate [Mesh]; hypersensitivity, delayed [Mesh]
hypertension [Mesh]	
impacts on health	
industrial hygiene; occupational hygiene	occupational health [Mesh]
industrial safety	safety [Mesh]; safety management [Mesh]
industry [Mesh]	
infection control [Mesh]	
infectious disease transmission, patient-to- professional [Mesh]	
inhalation exposure [Mesh]	
insecticides [Mesh]	
inservice training [Mesh]	
insurance [Mesh]	
insurance benefits [Mesh]	insurance [Mesh]
Insurance claim review [Mesh]	insurance [Mesh]
Insurance coverage [Mesh]	insurance [Mesh]
insurance, disability [Mesh]	
interprofessional relations [Mesh]	
job profile	
job satisfaction [Mesh]	
labor legislation	
labor market	
latex hypersensitivity [Mesh]	
lead [Mesh]	lead poisoning [Mesh]
lead poisoning [Mesh]	lead [Mesh]
Legislation	
leukemia [Mesh]	
life style [Mesh]	
low back pain [Mesh]	
lung [Mesh]	lung injury [Mesh]; lung diseases [Mesh]

lung diseases [Mesh]	lung injury [Mesh]; lung [Mesh]; lung diseases, fungal [Mesh]; lung diseases, interstitial [Mesh]; lung diseases, parasitic [Mesh]; lung diseases, obstructive [Mesh]
lymphocytes [Mesh]	
mass screening [Mesh]	health examinations for workers; health examinations for employees; workers' health surveillance
mass screening [Mesh]; health examinations for workers; health examinations for employees; workers' health surveillance	
medical audit [Mesh]	
mental disorders [Mesh]	
mental fatigue [Mesh]	
mental health [Mesh]	
mentally demanding work	
mercury [Mesh]	mercury poisoning [Mesh]
mesothelioma [Mesh]	mesothelioma, cystic [Mesh]
metallurgy [Mesh]	
military personnel [Mesh]	
mineral fibers [Mesh]	
mining [Mesh]	coal mining [Mesh]
models, biological [Mesh]	
musculoskeletal diseases [Mesh]	
mutagens [Mesh]	mutagens (pharmacological action) [Mesh]; mutagenesis [Mesh]
needlestick injuries [Mesh]; sharps injuries	
neoplasms [Mesh]	
neoplasms, radiation-induced [Mesh]	
nervous exhaustion; nervous breakdown; adjustment disorders [Mesh]	burnout, professional [Mesh]
neurotoxicity syndromes [Mesh]	
noise at work; noise, occupational [Mesh]	noise [Mesh]; hearing loss, noise-induced [Mesh]; tinnitus [Mesh]; noise, transportation [Mesh]
nurse administrators [Mesh]	
nurse practitioners [Mesh]	
nurses [Mesh]	
nurse's role [Mesh]	
nursing [Mesh]	nursing [Mesh subheading]
nursing staff [Mesh]	nursing staff, hospital [Mesh]
occupational asthma [Mesh]	asthma [Mesh]
occupational diseases [Mesh]; work-related diseases; occupational injuries [Mesh]	

occupational exposure [Mesh]	
occupational groups [Mesh]	
occupational hazard(s); occupational risk(s)	safety [Mesh]; safety management [Mesh]; risk management [Mesh]; risk factors [Mesh]
occupational health [Mesh]	
occupational health nurse	occupational health nursing [Mesh]
occupational health nursing [Mesh]	
occupational health physicians [Mesh]; occupational physicians	
occupational health services [Mesh]	
occupational medicine [Mesh]	
occupational psychology	
occupational therapy [Mesh]	
occupational toxicology	toxicology [Mesh]
occupations [Mesh]	
operating rooms [Mesh]	
pain [Mesh]	pain measurement [Mesh]
Painting	paint [Mesh]
patient care team [Mesh]	
patient education	patient education as topic [Mesh]; patient education handout (publication type) [Mesh]
patient satisfaction [Mesh]	
personal protective devices	protective devices [Mesh]
personnel downsizing [Mesh]	
personnel management [Mesh]	
personnel selection [Mesh]	
personnel turnover [Mesh]	
personnel, hospital [Mesh]	
pesticides [Mesh]	pesticides (pharmacological action) [Mesh]
physical demanding work	
physical demands	
physical examination [Mesh]	
physical fitness [Mesh]	
physical hazards	
physical therapy	physical therapy modalities [Mesh]; physical therapy specialty [Mesh]
physicians [Mesh]; doctors	
pleural neoplasms [Mesh]	
pneumoconiosis [Mesh]	
poisoning [Mesh]	poisoning [Mesh subheading]
polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH); polycyclic hydrocarbons, aromatic [Mesh]	
polymorphism, genetic [Mesh]	
population characteristics [Mesh]	
power plants [Mesh]	nuclear power plants [Mesh]
practice guidelines; practice guidelines (publication type) [Mesh]	guidelines as topic [Mesh]
pregnancy outcome [Mesh]	

prevention measures	prevention and control [Mesh subheading]
preventive health services [Mesh]	
primary health care [Mesh]	physicians; primary care [Mesh]; primary care nursing [Mesh]
primary prevention [Mesh]	
probability [Mesh]	
professional autonomy [Mesh]	
professional corporations [Mesh]; professional associations	
professional practice [Mesh]	
prognosis [Mesh]	
program evaluation [Mesh]	evaluation studies as topic [Mesh]
protective clothing [Mesh]	
protective devices [Mesh]	ear protective devices [Mesh]; head protective devices [Mesh]; eye protective devices [Mesh]; masks [Mesh]; mouth protectors [Mesh]; protective clothing [Mesh], gloves [Mesh], respiratory protective devices [Mesh]; seat belts [Mesh]; surgical gloves [Mesh]
psychological adaptation; adaptation, psychological [Mesh]	
psychosocial factors	psychology [Mesh]
public health [Mesh]	
public health practice [Mesh]	
quality assurance	quality assurance, health care [Mesh]
quality of health care [Mesh]	quality assurance, health care [Mesh]
quality of life [Mesh]	
quality-adjusted life years [Mesh]	
questionnaires [Mesh]	
radiation [Mesh]	radiation injuries [Mesh]
radiation dosage [Mesh]	
radiation injuries [Mesh]	
radiation monitoring [Mesh]	
radiation protection [Mesh]	
radioactive hazard release [Mesh]	
radiometry [Mesh]	
radon [Mesh]	radon daughters [Mesh]
randomized controlled trial [Mesh]; randomized controlled trials as topic [Mesh]	
recovery of function [Mesh]	
reference standards [Mesh]	
referral and consultation [Mesh]	
rehabilitation, vocational [Mesh]	
rehabilitation, vocational [Mesh]; rehabilitation [Mesh]	
release of dangerous radioactivity	radioactivity [Mesh]
Report	research report [Mesh];

	technical report (publication type) [Mesh]
respiratory protective devices [Mesh]	
respiratory tract diseases [Mesh]	
retirement [Mesh]	pensions [Mesh]
return to work	rehabilitation, vocational [Mesh]
risk [Mesh]	
risk assessment [Mesh]	risk management [Mesh]
risk factors [Mesh]	
risk map	
risk measurement	health status indicators [Mesh]
safety [Mesh]; security	safety management [Mesh]; security measures [Mesh]
secondary prevention [Mesh]	
security management [Mesh]; safety management [Mesh]	
security measures [Mesh]	
self concept [Mesh]	
self efficacy [Mesh]	
self-assessment (psychology); self-assessment [Mesh]	
sensitivity	sensitivity and specificity [Mesh] ;
sensitivity and specificity [Mesh]	
severity of illness index [Mesh]	
sheltered workshops [Mesh]	
Shiftwork	sleep disorders, circadian rhythm [Mesh]
silicon dioxide [Mesh]	
silicosis [Mesh]	
sleep disorders [Mesh]	sleep disorders, circadian rhythm [Mesh]
social responsibility [Mesh]	
social security [Mesh]	
social work [Mesh]	social work, psychiatric [Mesh]
solvents [Mesh]	solvents (pharmacological action) [Mesh]
Specificity	sensitivity and specificity [Mesh] ;
Stress	stress, physiological [Mesh]; stress, psychological [Mesh]
stress, psychological [Mesh]	
substance-related disorders [Mesh]	
supported employment; employment, supported [Mesh]	
tertiary prevention [Mesh]	
therapy	therapy [Mesh subheading]
to smoke; smoking [Mesh]	
tobacco smoke pollution [Mesh]	
toluene [Mesh]	
Toxicity	toxicity [Mesh subheading]
toxicology [Mesh]	
treatment failure [Mesh]	
treatment outcome [Mesh]	
unemployment [Mesh]	
uranium [Mesh]	

urinary bladder neoplasms [Mesh]	
vehicle emissions [Mesh]	
vibration [Mesh]	
violence [Mesh]	
virus diseases [Mesh]	
vocational guidance [Mesh]	vocational education [Mesh]
welding [Mesh]	
women, working [Mesh]	
work capacity evaluation [Mesh]	disability evaluation [Mesh]
work capacity evaluation [Mesh]; disability evaluation [Mesh]	
work disability; work incapacity	work capacity evaluation [Mesh]; professional impairments [Mesh] (for health care professionals)
work schedule tolerance [Mesh]	
workers' compensation [Mesh]	
working conditions; working environment	workplace [Mesh]
working environment surveillance; workplace inspection	
workload [Mesh]	
workplace [Mesh]	
workplace inspection; walk through survey	
work-related cancer, occupational cancer	
work-related incident	occupational injuries [Mesh]; accidents, occupational [Mesh]
wounds and injuries [Mesh]	