Boolean Operators: AND, OR, NOT

‘treatment AND back pain’ retrieves documents that contain both concepts, i.e., documents about treatment of back pain. Combining concepts with AND narrows the search, reducing the number of results.

‘treatment OR therapy’ retrieves documents that contain either concept. OR is used to combine closely related or synonymous concepts. It broadens the search, increasing the number of results.

‘analgesics NOT narcotic’ excludes narcotic analgesics from the results. Use NOT with caution, since it can eliminate documents relevant to your search.

Try nesting concepts by using parentheses to combine Boolean operators. Example:
(treatment OR therapy OR “pain management” OR analgesics NOT narcotic) AND (“back pain” OR “chronic pain”)

This searches for all possible treatments except narcotics for managing back pain or other chronic pain.