6S Hierarchy of Evidence

“When using this model to guide clinical decision making, begin your search at the highest possible layer in the 6S model” DiCenso, A., Bayley, L. & Haynes, R.B. 2009. Accessing pre-appraised evidence

Examples of Resources:

**SYSTEMS**
- Computerised decision support linked to individual patient (not common)

**SUMMARIES**
- Evidence based clinical practice guidelines
  - E.g. DynaMed Plus, Best Practice, JBI

**SYNOPES OF SYNTHESSES**
- Summaries of Systematic Reviews
  - E.g. DARE, Cancer treatment reviews (CTR), Evidence-Based Nursing (EBN)

**SYNTHESSES**
- Systematic Reviews e.g.
  - Cochrane Library

**SYNOPSES OF SINGLE STUDIES**
- Evidence based journals
  - E.g. EBN, CTR, Evidence-Based Mental Health

**SINGLE STUDIES**
- Original research studies
  - E.g. MEDLINE, Emcare

Light Blue – Secondary Pre-appraised Research
Dark Blue – Primary Original Research Not Pre-Appraised

See Hierarchy of Studies below

Hierarchy of Studies adapted from Duke University Library; 6S Hierarchy adapted from DiCenso et al.
KEMH Medical Library: https://kemh.libguides.com/library