What's the Difference between PMCID and PMID?

NIH Public Access Policy requires that anyone submitting an application, proposal or report to NIH must include the PubMed Central reference number (**PMCID**) when citing applicable papers that they author or that arise from their NIH-funded research.

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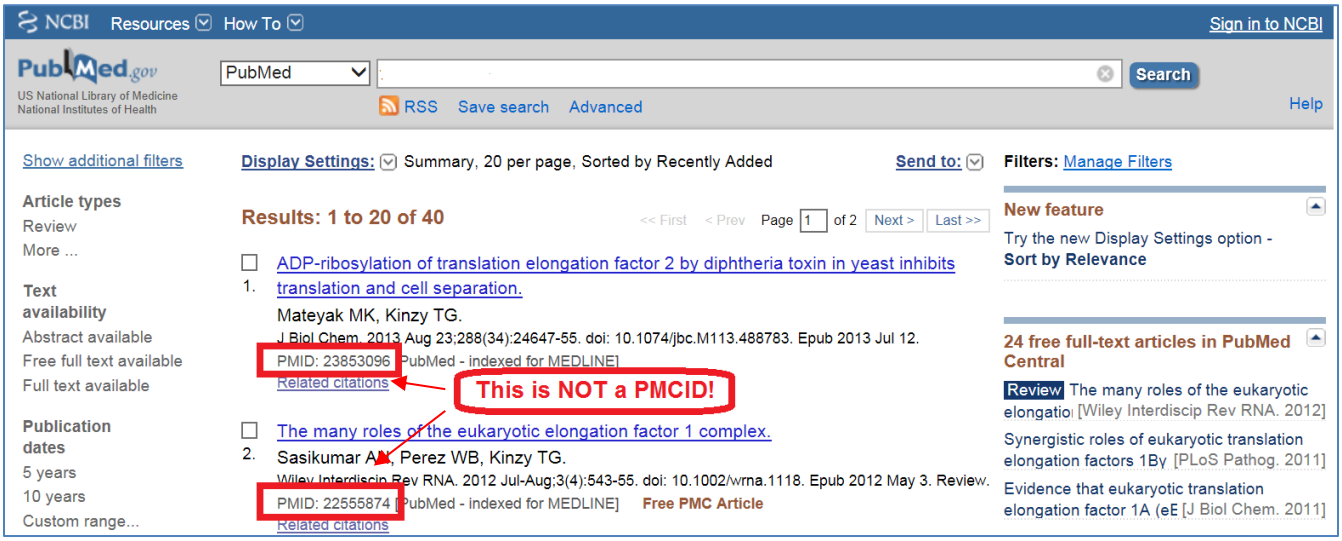
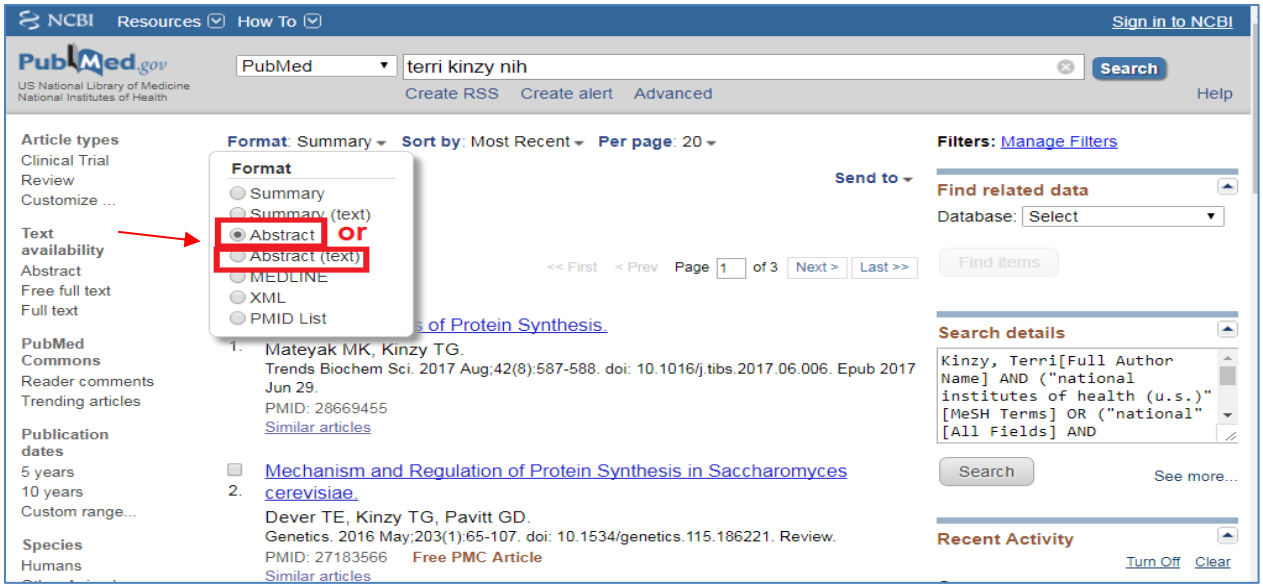
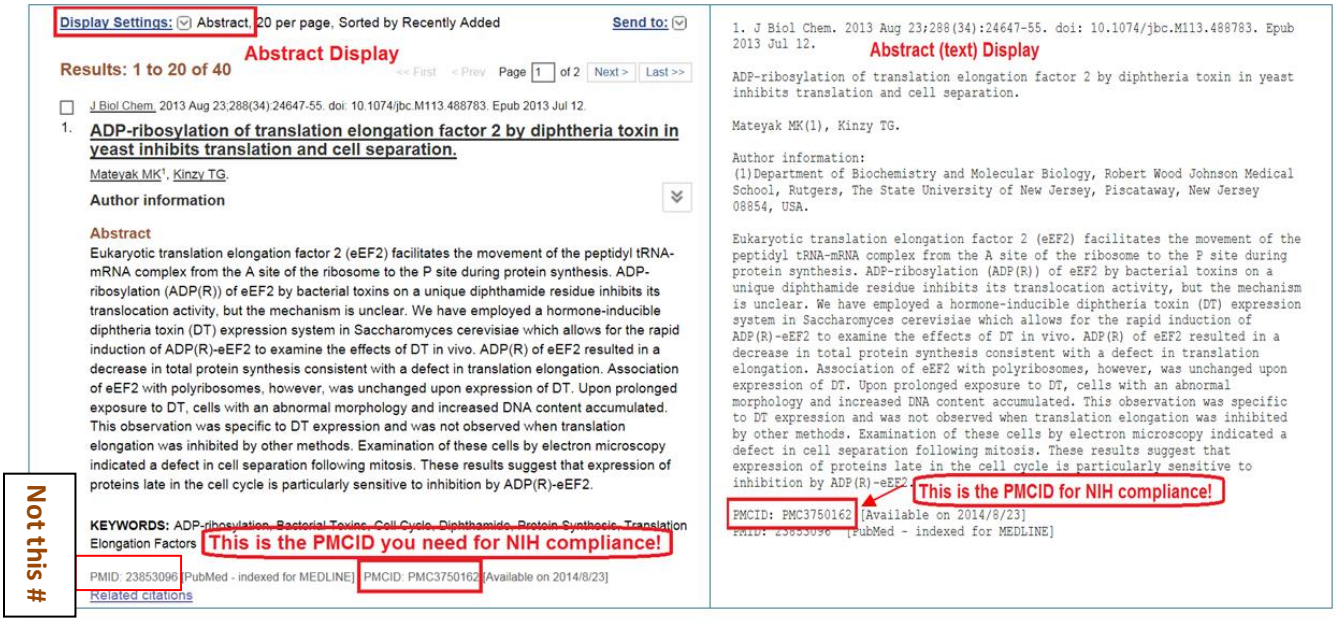
Do not confuse PMCID with PMID. PMID is a unique identifier assigned to each citation as it is added to PubMed. It is distinctly different from PMCID and is used only for PubMed records.



To retrieve the PMCID number, you need to change the Display option to either "Abstract" or "Abstract (text)" as shown below:



In the “Abstract” display, you will see the PMCID at lower right next to the PMID beneath the citation. In the “Abstract (text)” display, you will see the PMCID above the PMID beneath the citation. This is the number you must include on NIH proposals, applications and reports



If the paper is successfully processed but not yet publicly available in PMC, PubMed will also list the date the paper will become available, as shown in the above citation.

Example citation with PMCID:

Mateyak MK, Kinzy TG. ADP-ribosylation of translation elongation factor 2 by diphtheria toxin in yeast inhibits translation and cell separation. The Journal of biological chemistry. 2013;288(34):24647-55. Epub 2013/07/16. doi: 10.1074/jbc.M113.488783. PubMed PMID: 23853096; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC3750162.

When PMCID is not yet available:

- ❑ use “**PMC Journal - in Process**” when using Submission Method A or B
- ❑ use **NIHMSID** up to 3 months after publication date when using Submission Method C or D.

For papers published more than 3 months before an application, proposal and report is submitted, a PMCID is the only way to demonstrate compliance for these papers.

Please remember NIH awardees are responsible for ensuring that all steps of the NIHMS submission process are complete within three months of publication.
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