

## Additional file 1: MEDLINE search strategy

- 1 exp retention/
- 2 retain\*/
- 3 intention to stay/
- 4 intention to leave
- 5 motivation to stay
- 6 willingness to work.mp.
- 7 or/1-6
- 8 exp doctor\*
- 9 physician\*
- 10 specialist\*
- 11 general practitioner\*
- 12 general physician\*
- 13 medical practitioner\*.mp.
- 14 or/8-13
- 15 (low- and middle-income country or low- and middle-income countries or low-income country or low-income countries or lower middle-income country or lower middle-income countries or upper middle-income country or upper middle-income countries).mp.
- 16 (Afghanistan or Albania or Algeria or American Samoa or Angola or Armenia or Azerbaijan or Bangladesh or Belarus or Byelarus or Belorussia or Belize or Benin or Bhutan or Bolivia or Bosnia or Botswana or Brazil or Bulgaria or Burma or Burkina Faso or Burundi or Cabo Verde or Cape Verde or Cambodia or Cameroon or Central African Republic or Chad or China or Colombia or

Comoros or Comores or Comoro or Congo or Costa Rica or Côte d'Ivoire or Cuba or Djibouti or Dominica or Dominican Republic or Ecuador or Egypt or El Salvador or Equatorial Guinea or Eritrea or Ethiopia or Fiji or Gabon or Gambia or Gaza or Georgia or Georgia Republic or Ghana or Grenada or Grenadines or Guatemala or Guinea or Guinea-Bissau or Guyana or Haiti or Herzegovina or Hercegovina or Honduras or India or Indonesia or Iran or Iraq or Ivory Coast or Jamaica or Jordan or Kazakhstan or Kenya or Kiribati or Democratic People's Republic of Korea or Kosovo or Kyrgyz or Kirghizia or Kirghiz or Kyrgyzstan or Lao PDR or Laos or Lebanon or Lesotho or Liberia or Libya or Macedonia or Madagascar or Malawi or Malay or Malaya or Malaysia or Maldives or Mali or Marshall Islands or Mauritania or Mauritius or Mexico or Micronesia or Moldova or Mongolia or Montenegro or Morocco or Mozambique or Myanmar or Namibia or Nepal or Nicaragua or Niger or Nigeria or Pakistan or Palau or Papua New Guinea or Paraguay or Peru or Philippines or Principe or Romania or Ruanda or Rwanda or Samoa or Sao Tome or Senegal or Serbia or Sierra Leone or Solomon Islands or Somalia or South Africa or South Sudan or Sri Lanka or St Lucia or St Vincent or Sudan or Surinam or Suriname or Swaziland or Syria or Syrian Arab Republic or Tajikistan or Tadjikistan or Tajikistan or Tadjhik or Tanzania or Thailand or Timor or Togo or Tonga or Tunisia or Turkey or Turkmen or Turkmenistan or Tuvalu or Uganda or Ukraine or Uzbek or Uzbekistan or Vanuatu or Venezuela or Vietnam or West Bank or Yemen or Zambia or Zimbabwe).mp.

17 or/15-16

18 7 and 14 and 17