

Appendix 2. Search strategy for types of evidence – example from MEDLINE

Database: Ovid MEDLINE(R) <1966 to January Week 4 2005>

Search Strategy:

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1      exp Randomized Controlled Trials/ or randomised controlled
      trial.mp. or
      exp Clinical Trials/ or exp Random Allocation/ (199210)
2      double blind.mp. or exp Double-Blind Method/ (94229)
3      exp Single-Blind Method/ or single blind.mp. (11304)
4      placebo.mp. or exp Placebos/ (97298)
5      Comparative Study/ (1153516)
6      1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 (1379332)
7      exp Meta-Analysis/ or systematic review.mp. (10546)
8      meta-analysis.mp. (13365)
9      quantitative review$.mp. (212)
10     quantitative overview$.mp. (52)
11     statistical pool$.mp. (68)
12     7 or 8 or 9 or 10 or 11 (17498)
13     exp Cohort Studies/ (510826)
14     cohort stud$.mp. (61836)
15     exp Prospective Studies/ (180386)
16     prospective stud$.mp. (197042)
17     prospective stud$.mp. (197042)
18     exp Risk/ (375227)
19     relative risk$.mp. (26164)
20     13 or 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19 (840289)
21     exp Case-Control Studies/ (269256)
22     case control stud$.mp. (68864)
23     exp Retrospective Studies/ (211394)
24     retrospective stud$.mp. (218621)
25     exp Odds Ratio/ (21684)
26     odds ratio$.mp. (49669)
27     21 or 22 or 23 or 24 or 25 or 26 (315452)
28     exp Cross-Sectional Studies/ (56120)
29     cross sectional stud$.mp. (60020)
30     28 or 29 (60020)
31     "Costs and Cost Analysis"/ or Cost-Benefit Analysis/ or "Quality
      of Life"/ (107935)
32     economic evaluation$.mp. (2282)
33     cost effectiveness anal$.mp. (2607)
34     cost utility anal$.mp. (456)
35     cost benefit anal$.mp. (34757)
36     cost minimisation analysis.mp. (45)
37     exp Health Services Research/ or exp Quality-Adjusted Life Years/
      (56739)
38     31 or 32 or 33 or 34 or 35 or 36 or 37 (161277)
39     6 or 12 or 20 or 27 or 30 or 38 (2359631)
40     limit 39 to human (1896423)
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