

Text S1. Sources searched for included studies

Databases

All databases were originally searched on the 26th or 27th September 2007 with the most recent update searches carried out between the 22nd October and 6th November 2009.

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR): methodology reviews only: 2009 Issue 4

Cochrane Methodology Register (CMR): 2009 Issue 4

Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE): November 2009

EMBASE: 1980 to 2009 Week 42

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Database: November 2009

Health Management Information Consortium (HMIC): September 2009

Index to Theses: November 2009

Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts (LISTA): Mid-1960s – October 2009

MEDLINE: 1950 to October Week 3

MEDLINE in process: 22 October 2009

Handsearching of Journals

BMC Clinical Pharmacology - 2001;1(1) to 2009;9(17)

BMC Medical Research Methodology - 2001;1 to 2009;9(69)

Drug Safety – 1998;18(1) to 2009;32(11)

Health Information and Libraries Journal (formerly Health Libraries Review) - 1994;11(1) to 2009;26(3)

Journal of Clinical Epidemiology - 1998 to 2009;62(12)

Journal of Information Science - 1979;1(1) to 2009;35(5)

Journal of Librarianship and Information Science - 1969;1(1) to 2009;41(3)

Journal of the Medical Library Association (formerly the Bulletin of the Medical Library Association) - from 2000;88(2) to 2009;97(4)

Pharmacoepidemiology & Drug Safety – 1992;1(1) to 2009;18(11)

Handsearching of Conference Proceedings

Cochrane Colloquia 1994 - 2009

HTAi 2004 - 2009

Pharma-Bio-Med Conference and Exposition 2006 - 2008

Symposium on Systematic Reviews 1998 - 2002

Web Sources

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) via <http://www.ahrq.gov/> Searched: 28/10/09

Health Technology Assessment Programme (HTA) via <http://www.hta.ac.uk/index.shtml> Searched: 28/10/09