

Appendix 1 (as supplied by authors): Example of search strategy

MEDLINE

Canadian rule OR national emergency x radiography utilization study OR NEXUS low risk criteria OR low risk cervical spine criteria

EMBASE

#2 canadian AND c AND ('spine'/exp OR spine) AND rule

#3 canadian AND 'c spine' AND rule

#4 canadian AND cervical AND ('spine'/exp OR spine) AND rule

#5 canadian AND cervical AND rule

#6 #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5

#7 national AND ('emergency'/exp OR emergency) AND x AND ('radiography'/exp OR radiography) AND utilization AND ('study'/exp OR study)

#8 'nexus'/exp OR nexus AND low AND ('risk'/exp OR risk) AND criteria

#9 low AND ('risk'/exp OR risk) AND cervical AND ('spine'/exp OR spine) AND criteria

#10 #7 OR #8 OR #9

#11 #6 OR #10

Appendix to: Michaleff ZA, Maher CG, Verhagen AP, et al. Accuracy of the Canadian C-spine rule and NEXUS to screen for clinically important cervical spine injury in patients following blunt trauma: a systematic review. *CMAJ* 2012. DOI:10.1503/cmaj.120675. Copyright © 2012 Canadian Medical Association or its licensors.