

Appendix 1: Search strategy

We searched PubMed from 1947 to the end of June 2012 using the following search: (((((((((((((((over forty[Text Word]) OR over 40[Text Word]) OR older women[Text Word]) OR older[Text Word]) OR perimenopausal[Text Word]) OR perimenopause[Text Word]) OR menopausal[Text Word]) OR menopause[Text Word]) OR forties[Text Word]) OR 40's[Text Word]) OR 40s[Text Word]) OR fifties[Text Word]) OR 50's[Text Word]) OR 50s[Text Word]) OR fifth decade[Text Word]) OR age factor[Text Word]) OR age factors[Text Word]) AND (((“Contraception”[Mesh]) OR “Contraceptive Devices”[Mesh]) OR “Contraceptive Agents”[Mesh]). Filters: Humans, Female, Adult: 19+ years, English language.

We also searched the Cochrane Library using the keyword “contraception.” Bibliographies from the identified articles were manually searched. We also reviewed summary statements including the United States Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use, 2010, the clinical practice guidelines of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada, and the clinical guidelines of the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, including the United Kingdom Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use, 2009.