

## Appendix 1

The search strategy which will be used to search the MEDLINE database. This strategy will be adapted to apply to the other included databases.

### Type 2 diabetes

1. Diabetes Mellitus, Type 2 [MeSH, all subheadings and categories included]
2. (type\* ADJ3 ("2" OR "II" OR two\*) ADJ3 (diabete\* OR diabetic\*)).ti,ab
3. ((non-insulin\* OR (non ADJ1 insulin\*) OR noninsulin\*) ADJ3 depend\* ADJ3 (diabete\* OR diabetic\*)).ti,ab
4. ((maturit\* OR adult\* OR slow\*) ADJ3 onset\* ADJ3 (diabete\* OR diabetic\*)).ti,ab
5. ((ketosis-resistant\* OR stable\*) ADJ3 (diabete\* OR diabetic\*)).ti,ab
6. NIDDM.ti,ab
7. 1 OR 2 OR 3 OR 4 OR 5 OR 6

### Medication adherence OR persistence

8. Medication Adherence [MeSH, all subheadings and categories included]
9. Patient Dropouts [MeSH, all subheadings and categories included]
10. Patient Compliance [MeSH, all subheadings and categories included]
11. Patient Participation [MeSH, all subheadings and categories included]
12. Patient Preference [MeSH, all subheadings and categories included]
13. Treatment Refusal [MeSH, all subheadings and categories included]
14. ((complianc\* OR non-complianc\* OR noncomplianc\*) ADJ6 (treatment\* OR medication\* OR therapy\* OR therapies OR regimen)).ti,ab
15. ((complianc\* OR non-complianc\* OR noncomplianc\*) ADJ3 patient\*).ti,ab
16. ((adherenc\* OR non-adherenc\* OR nonadherenc\*) ADJ6 (treatment\* OR medication\* OR therapy\* OR therapies OR regimen)).ti,ab
17. ((adherenc\* OR non-adherenc\* OR nonadherenc\*) ADJ3 patient\*).ti,ab
18. ((persistenc\* OR cooperat\* OR co-operat\* OR concordanc\*) ADJ6 (treatment\* OR medication\* OR therapy\* OR therapies OR regimen)).ti,ab
19. ((persistenc\* OR cooperat\* OR co-operat\* OR concordanc\*) ADJ3 patient\*).ti,ab
20. ((refusal OR withdrawal OR discontinu\*) ADJ3 (treatment\* OR medication\* OR therapy\* OR therapies OR regimen)).ti,ab
21. ((dropout\* OR (drop\* ADJ1 out\*)) ADJ3 patient\*).ti,ab
22. 8 OR 9 OR 10 OR 11 OR OR 12 13 OR 14 OR 15 OR 16 OR 17 OR 18 OR 19 OR 20 OR 21

### Study types

23. Clinical Trial [MeSH, all subheadings and categories included]
24. Case-control Studies [MeSH, all subheadings and categories included]
25. Retrospective Studies [MeSH, all subheadings and categories included]
26. Cohort Studies [MeSH, all subheadings and categories included]
27. Longitudinal Studies [MeSH, all subheadings and categories included]
28. Follow-up Studies [MeSH, all subheadings and categories included]

A systematic review of adherence rates by medication class in type 2 diabetes: Study protocol

29. Prospective Studies [MeSH, all subheadings and categories included]
30. (clinical ADJ3 trial).ti,ab
31. cohort.ti,ab
32. longitudinal.ti,ab
33. ("follow up" OR followup OR follow-up).ti,ab
34. prospective.ti,ab
35. retrospective.ti,ab
36. "comparison group".ti,ab
37. "control group".ti,ab
38. observational.ti,ab
39. nonrandom\*.ti,ab
40. random\*.ti,ab
41. 23 OR 24 OR 25 OR 26 OR 27 OR 28 OR 29 OR 30 OR 31 OR 32 OR 33 OR 34 OR 35 OR 36 OR 37 OR 38 OR 39 OR 40

**Final Medline list for analysis**

42. 7 AND 22 AND 41
43. 42 excluding non-English language studies
44. 43 excluding results prior to 2006