

## Appendix 2.

### Excluded cases with reasons

Case	Reference	Reasons
CD001955	(1) Russell K, Wiebe N, Saenz A, Ausejo SM, Johnson D, Hartling L, et al. Glucocorticoids for croup. <i>Cochrane Database Syst Rev.</i> 2004(1):CD001955.	Mean difference
CD002060	(2) Mills JF, Tudehope D. Fiberoptic phototherapy for neonatal jaundice. <i>Cochrane Database Syst Rev.</i> 2001(1):CD002060.	Mean difference
CD003534	(3) Adams NP, Bestall JC, Jones P, Lasserson TJ, Griffiths B, Cates CJ. Fluticasone at different doses for chronic asthma in adults and children. <i>Cochrane Database Syst Rev.</i> 2008(4):CD003534.	Mean difference
CD003677	(4) Johnson N, Barlow D, Lethaby A, Tavender E, Curr E, Garry R. Surgical approach to hysterectomy for benign gynaecological disease. <i>Cochrane Database Syst Rev.</i> 2006(2):CD003677.	Mean difference
CD004109	(5) Powell H, Gibson PG. High dose versus low dose inhaled corticosteroid as initial starting dose for asthma in adults and children. <i>Cochrane Database Syst Rev.</i> 2004(2):CD004109.	Mean difference
CD004217	(6) Brady-Fryer B, Wiebe N, Lander JA. Pain relief for neonatal circumcision. <i>Cochrane Database Syst Rev.</i> 2004(4):CD004217.	Mean difference
CD004423	(7) Brady M, Kinn S, Stuart P. Preoperative fasting for adults to prevent perioperative complications. <i>Cochrane Database Syst Rev.</i> 2003(4):CD004423.	Mean difference
CD005347	(8) Kulier R, O'Brien PA, Helmerhorst FM, Usher-Patel M, D'Arcangues C. Copper containing, framed intra-uterine devices for contraception. <i>Cochrane Database Syst Rev.</i> 2007(4):CD005347.	Mean difference
CD005593	(9) Birks J. Cholinesterase inhibitors for Alzheimer's disease. <i>Cochrane Database Syst Rev.</i> 2006(1):CD005593.	Mean difference
CD000978	(10) Worthington HV, Clarkson JE, Eden OB. Interventions for preventing oral mucositis for patients with cancer receiving treatment. <i>Cochrane Database Syst Rev.</i> 2006(2):CD000978.	Mean difference
CD003878	(11) Esposito M, Grusovin MG, Willings M, Coulthard P, Worthington HV. Interventions for replacing missing teeth: different times for loading dental implants. <i>Cochrane Database Syst Rev.</i> 2007(2):CD003878.	Mean difference
Biondi-Zoccai 2007	(12) Biondi-Zoccai GG, Lotrionte M, Abbate A, Valgimigli M, Testa L, Burzotta F, et al. Direct and indirect comparison meta-analysis demonstrates the superiority of sirolimus- versus paclitaxel-eluting stents across 5854 patients. <i>Int J Cardiol.</i> 2007 Jan 2;114(1):104-5.	More updated review included
Bolen 2007	(13) Bolen S, Feldman L, Vassy J, Wilson L, Yeh HC, Marinopoulos S, et al. Systematic review: comparative effectiveness and safety of oral medications for type 2 diabetes mellitus. <i>Ann Intern Med.</i> 2007 Sep 18;147(6):386-99.	Mean difference

Boonen 2007	(14) Boonen S, Lips P, Bouillon R, Bischoff-Ferrari HA, Vanderschueren D, Haentjens P. Need for additional calcium to reduce the risk of hip fracture with vitamin d supplementation: evidence from a comparative metaanalysis of randomized controlled trials. <i>J Clin Endocrinol Metab.</i> 2007 Apr;92(4):1415-23.	More updated review included
Brown 2006	(15) Brown TJ, Hooper L, Elliott RA, Payne K, Webb R, Roberts C, et al. A comparison of the cost-effectiveness of five strategies for the prevention of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug-induced gastrointestinal toxicity: a systematic review with economic modelling. <i>Health Technol Assess.</i> 2006 Oct;10(38):iii-iv, xi-xiii, 1-183.	More updated review included
Elliott 2007	(16) Elliott WJ, Meyer PM. Incident diabetes in clinical trials of antihypertensive drugs: a network meta-analysis. <i>Lancet.</i> 2007 Jan 20;369(9557):201-7.	More updated review included
Golfinopoulos 2007	(17) Golfinopoulos V, Salanti G, Pavlidis N, Ioannidis JP. Survival and disease-progression benefits with treatment regimens for advanced colorectal cancer: a meta-analysis. <i>Lancet Oncol.</i> 2007 Oct;8(10):898-911.	Hazard ratio
Griffin 2006	(18) Griffin S, Bojke L, Main C, Palmer S. Incorporating direct and indirect evidence using bayesian methods: an applied case study in ovarian cancer. <i>Value Health.</i> 2006 Mar-Apr;9(2):123-31.	Hazard ratio
Jansen 2006	(19) Jansen JP. Self-monitoring of glucose in type 2 diabetes mellitus: a Bayesian meta-analysis of direct and indirect comparisons. <i>Curr Med Res Opin.</i> 2006 Apr;22(4):671-81.	Mean difference
Kyrgiou 2006	(20) Kyrgiou M, Salanti G, Pavlidis N, Paraskevaidis E, Ioannidis JP. Survival benefits with diverse chemotherapy regimens for ovarian cancer: meta-analysis of multiple treatments. <i>J Natl Cancer Inst.</i> 2006 Nov 15;98(22):1655-63.	Hazard ratio
Lee 2005	(21) Lee C, Hunsche E, Balshaw R, Kong SX, Schnitzer TJ. Need for common internal controls when assessing the relative efficacy of pharmacologic agents using a meta-analytic approach: case study of cyclooxygenase 2-selective inhibitors for the treatment of osteoarthritis. <i>Arthritis Rheum.</i> 2005 Aug 15;53(4):510-8.	Mean difference
Norris 2007	(22) Norris SL, Carson S, Roberts C. Comparative effectiveness of pioglitazone and rosiglitazone in type 2 diabetes, prediabetes, and the metabolic syndrome: a meta-analysis. <i>Curr Diabetes Rev.</i> 2007 May;3(2):127-40.	Mean difference
Richy 2005	(23) Richy F, Schacht E, Bruyere O, Ethgen O, Gourlay M, Reginster JY. Vitamin D analogs versus native vitamin D in preventing bone loss and osteoporosis-related fractures: a comparative meta-analysis. <i>Calcif Tissue Int.</i> 2005 Mar;76(3):176-86.	Mean difference
Roddy 2005	(24) Roddy E, Zhang W, Doherty M. Aerobic walking or strengthening exercise for osteoarthritis of the knee? A systematic review. <i>Ann Rheum Dis.</i> 2005 Apr;64(4):544-8.	Mean difference
Sauriol 2001	(25) Sauriol L, Laporta M, Edwardes MD, Deslandes M, Ricard N, Suissa S. Meta-analysis comparing newer antipsychotic drugs for the treatment of schizophrenia: evaluating the indirect approach. <i>Clin Ther.</i> 2001 Jun;23(6):942-56.	Mean difference
Spiegel 2006	(26) Spiegel BM, Farid M, Dulai GS, Gralnek IM, Kanwal F. Comparing rates of dyspepsia with Coxibs vs NSAID+PPI: a meta-analysis. <i>Am J Med.</i> 2006 May;119(5):448 e27-36.	Relative risk

Tudur-Smith 2007	(27) Tudur Smith C, Marson AG, Chadwick DW, Williamson PR. Multiple treatment comparisons in epilepsy monotherapy trials. <i>Trials</i> . 2007 Nov 5;8(1):34.	Hazard ratio
Vandermeer 2007	(28) Vandermeer BW, Buscemi N, Liang Y, Witmans M. Comparison of meta-analytic results of indirect, direct, and combined comparisons of drugs for chronic insomnia in adults: a case study. <i>Med Care</i> . 2007 Oct;45(10 Supl 2):S166-72.	Mean difference
Wilhelmus 2000	(29) Wilhelmus KR. The treatment of herpes simplex virus epithelial keratitis. <i>Trans Am Ophthalmol Soc</i> . 2000;98:505-32.	More updated review included