Web appendix: Search strategy

Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE) via the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination Internal Administration Database

Searched: 25/04/11

The following terms were searched for in the title and 'authors objective' section of the abstract:

safe or safety or adverse or tolerability or toxicity or toxic or adrs or adr or tolerance or tolerate or harm or harms or harmful or complication$ or risk or risks OR side effect$ OR undesirable effect$ or treatment emergent

The full abstract was not searched as part of the DARE process of evaluation includes assessing whether adverse effects were included in the review so many DARE abstracts include sentences such as 'adverse effects were not considered' and terms such as risk would have identified lots of reviews included relative risk ratios. Any duplicates were removed from the results from the two DARE searches.

Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE) via Cochrane Library (Wiley interface) Issue 2 of 4 April 2011

Searched: 25/04/11

#1 Any MeSH descriptor with qualifier: AE in MeSH products

#2 Any MeSH descriptor with qualifier: DE in MeSH products

#3 Any MeSH descriptor with qualifier: CO in MeSH products

#4 Any MeSH descriptor with qualifier: PO in MeSH products

#5 Any MeSH descriptor with qualifier: TO in MeSH products

#6 Any MeSH descriptor with qualifier: CI in MeSH products

#7 MeSH descriptor Drug Hypersensitivity explode all trees in MeSH products

#8 MeSH descriptor Drug Toxicity explode all trees in MeSH products

#9 MeSH descriptor Product Surveillance, Postmarketing explode all trees in MeSH products

#10 #1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5 or #6 or #7 or #8 or #9

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR) via Cochrane Library

(Wiley interface) Issue 4 of 12, April 2011

Searched: 25/04/11

This database uses automatic pluralisation, so terms "harms and risks" are not required as the terms "harm and risk" are already in the strategy.

#1 Any MeSH descriptor with qualifier: AE in MeSH products

#2 Any MeSH descriptor with qualifier: DE in MeSH products

#3 Any MeSH descriptor with qualifier: CO in MeSH products

#4 Any MeSH descriptor with qualifier: PO in MeSH products

#5 Any MeSH descriptor with qualifier: TO in MeSH products

#6 Any MeSH descriptor with qualifier: CI in MeSH products

#7 MeSH descriptor Drug Hypersensitivity explode all trees in MeSH products

#8 MeSH descriptor Drug Toxicity explode all trees in MeSH products

#9 MeSH descriptor Product Surveillance, Postmarketing explode all trees in MeSH products

#10 (safe or safety or adverse or tolerability or toxicity or toxic or adrs or adr or tolerance or tolerate or harm or harms or harmful or complication* or risk or risks) near/20 objective* in Abstract in all products

#11 (side next effect*) near/20 objective* in Abstract in all products

#12 (undesirable next effect*) near/20 objective* in Abstract in all products

#13 (treatment next emergent) near/20 objective* in Abstract in all products

#14 (safe or safety or adverse or tolerability or toxicity or toxic or adrs or adr or tolerance or tolerate or harm or harms or harmful or complication* or risk or risks) in Record Title in all products

#15 (side next effect*) in Record Title in all products

#16 (undesirable next effect*) in Record Title in all products

#17 (treatment next emergent) in Record Title in all products

#18 #1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5 or #6 or #7 or #8 or #9 or #10 or #11 or #12 or #13 or #14 or #15 or #16 or #17 or #18