

## Appendix 1 Search strategies

### MEDLINE

Database: Ovid MEDLINE(R) In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations and Ovid MEDLINE(R) <1946 to Present>

Search Strategy:

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- 1 Thyroid Function Tests/ (12058)
  - 2 Laboratories, Hospital/ut [Utilization] (191)
  - 3 Clinical Laboratory Techniques/ut, sn (919)
  - 4 Clinical Chemistry Tests/ec, ut [Economics, Utilization] (66)
  - 5 Diagnostic Tests, Routine/ec, sn, td, ut [Economics, Statistics & Numerical Data, Trends, Utilization] (1995)
  - 6 (thyroid function adj (test or tests or testing)).ti,ab. (2549)
  - 7 (test\* adj5 thyroid).ti,ab. (6241)
  - 8 (TSH adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (1321)
  - 9 (T3 adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (942)
  - 10 (FT3 adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (79)
  - 11 (TT3 adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (15)
  - 12 (T4 adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (810)
  - 13 (FT4 adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (161)
  - 14 (TT4 adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (36)
  - 15 thyroid stimulating hormone test\*.ti,ab. (21)
  - 16 (triiodothyronine adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (420)
  - 17 (thyrotropin adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (675)
  - 18 TSH assay\*.ti,ab. (330)
  - 19 thyrotropin assay\*.ti,ab. (82)
  - 20 or/1-19 (21931)
  - 21 (test\* adj5 request\*).ti,ab. (1987)

- 22 (test\* adj2 practic\*).ti,ab. (2997)
- 23 (test\* adj5 order\*).ti,ab. (18586)
- 24 (unnecessary adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (1535)
- 25 (inappropriate\* adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (829)
- 26 (test\* adj5 strateg\*).ti,ab. (9713)
- 27 (test\* adj5 guidelines).ti,ab. (3552)
- 28 (appropriate\* adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (10630)
- 29 (misuse adj4 test\*).ti,ab. (164)
- 30 or/21-29 (47808)
- 31 Unnecessary Procedures/ec, ut, st [Economics, Utilization, Standards] (569)
- 32 30 and 31 (66)
- 33 30 and 20 (868)
- 34 32 or 33 (906)

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**Embase**

Database: Embase <1974 to 2013 November 25>

Search Strategy:

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- 1 Thyroid Function Tests/ (12224)
- 2 (thyroid function adj (test or tests or testing)).ti,ab. (3606)
- 3 (thyroid adj2 screening).ti,ab. (858)
- 4 (test\* adj5 thyroid).ti,ab. (8381)
- 5 (TSH adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (1921)
- 6 (T3 adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (1337)
- 7 (FT3 adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (145)
- 8 (TT3 adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (26)
- 9 (T4 adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (1134)

- 10 (FT4 adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (278)
- 11 (TT4 adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (37)
- 12 thyroid stimulating hormone test\*.ti,ab. (30)
- 13 (triiodothyronine adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (456)
- 14 (thyrotropin adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (747)
- 15 TSH assay\*.ti,ab. (451)
- 16 thyrotropin assay\*.ti,ab. (98)
- 17 or/1-16 (21791)
- 18 (test\* adj5 request\*).ti,ab. (2721)
- 19 (test\* adj2 practic\*).ti,ab. (3808)
- 20 (test\* adj5 order\*).ti,ab. (23260)
- 21 (unnecessary adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (2095)
- 22 (inappropriate\* adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (1129)
- 23 (test\* adj5 strateg\*).ti,ab. (11504)
- 24 (test\* adj5 guidelines).ti,ab. (4942)
- 25 (appropriate\* adj5 test\*).ti,ab. (14872)
- 26 (misuse adj4 test\*).ti,ab. (183)
- 27 or/18-26 (61598)
- 28 17 and 27 (366)

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**Cochrane library**

Database: Cochrane Library

Date Run: 27/11/13 11:20:54.437

Description:

ID	Search Hits
#1	MeSH descriptor: [Thyroid Function Tests] explode all trees 535

#2 MeSH descriptor: [Clinical Chemistry Tests] explode all trees 6165

#3 MeSH descriptor: [Diagnostic Tests, Routine] explode all trees 291

#4 ("thyroid function" next (test\*)):ti,ab 76

#5 (test\* near/5 thyroid):ti,ab 161

#6 (TSH near/5 test\*):ti,ab 53

#7 (T3 near/5 test\*):ti,ab 59

#8 (FT3 near/5 test\*):ti,ab 2

#9 (TT3 near/5 test\*):ti,ab 1

#10 (T4 near/5 test\*):ti,ab 38

#11 (FT4 near/5 test\*):ti,ab 4

#12 (TT4 near/5 test\*):ti,ab 2

#13 "thyroid stimulating hormone test\*":ti,ab 1

#14 (triiodothyronine near/5 test\*):ti,ab 10

#15 (thyrotropin near/5 test\*):ti,ab 18

#16 "tsh assay\*":ti,ab 8

#17 "thyrotropin assay\*":ti,ab 0

#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 7179

#19 ("test\* near/5 request\*"):ti,ab 0

#20 ("test\* near/5 practic\*"):ti,ab 0

#21 ("test\* near/5 order\*"):ti,ab 0

#22 (unnecessary near/5 test\*):ti,ab 45

#23 (inappropriate\* near/5 test\*):ti,ab 33

#24 (test\* near/5 strateg\*):ti,ab 667

#25 (test\* near/5 guidelines):ti,ab 138

#26 (appropriate\* near/5 test\*):ti,ab 564

#27 (misuse near/4 test\*):ti,ab 13

#28 #19 or #20 or #21 or #22 or #23 or #24 or #25 or #26 or #27 1408

#29 #18 and #28 35