

## Appendix 1. Search strategy

- #1 "Terminally Ill"[Mesh]
- #2 Neoplasms[Mesh]
- #3 (cancer[Title/Abstract] OR malignan\*[Title/Abstract] OR neoplas\*[Title/Abstract] OR tumor\*[Title/Abstract] OR tumour\*[Title/Abstract]) AND (terminal[Title/Abstract] OR end-stage[Title/Abstract] OR advanced[Title/Abstract] OR incurable[Title/Abstract] OR uncurable[Title/Abstract] OR inoperable[Title/Abstract] OR stage 4[Title/Abstract] OR recurrent[Title/Abstract] OR metastatic[Title/Abstract])
- #4 "Pulmonary Disease, Chronic Obstructive"[Mesh]
- #5 Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease[Title/Abstract] OR COPD[Title/Abstract]
- #6 ("Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome"[Mesh] OR Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome[Title/Abstract] OR AIDS[Title/Abstract])
- #7 "Kidney Failure, Chronic"[Mesh]
- #8 (renal failure[Title/Abstract] OR kidney failure[Title/Abstract])
- #9 ("Heart Failure"[Mesh] OR heart failure[Title/Abstract] OR CHF[Title/Abstract]) AND (terminal[Title/Abstract] OR end-stage[Title/Abstract] OR advanced[Title/Abstract])
- #10 #1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9
- #11 Terminal Care[Mesh:noexp]
- #12 Palliative Care[Mesh]
- #13 (palliative[Title/Abstract] OR palliation[Title/Abstract])
- #14 "Hospices"[Mesh]
- #15 "Hospice Care"[Mesh]
- #16 (hospice[Title/Abstract]) OR hospices[Title/Abstract])
- #17 (end-of-life[Title/Abstract] OR supportive[Title/Abstract] OR comfort[Title/Abstract] OR symptom[Title/Abstract]) AND (therapy[Title/Abstract] OR therapies[Title/Abstract] OR management[Title/Abstract] OR treatment[Title/Abstract] OR care[Title/Abstract])
- #18 #11 OR #12 OR #13 OR #14 OR #15 OR #16
- #19 randomized controlled trial[Publication Type] OR controlled clinical trial[Publication Type] OR randomi\*[Title/Abstract] OR placebo[Title/Abstract] OR drug therapy[Title/Abstract] OR randomly[Title/Abstract] OR trial[Title/Abstract] OR groups[Title/Abstract]
- #20 #10 AND #18 AND #19