

Appendix 1 - Search Strategy

1. For Medline (PubMed)

(((((((causes OR determinants OR statistics OR rates OR factors OR decision* OR physician* OR socioeconomic OR state medicine OR evidence-based OR hospital OR hospitals OR hospitalization OR hospitalized OR uncertain* OR educational status OR social class OR obstetric* OR gynecolog* OR supply OR distribut* OR utilization OR insurance OR choice OR attitude OR patient OR economics OR maternal OR accessib* OR health service* OR rural population OR urban population[Title/Abstract])) NOT medline[sb])) OR ("Decision Making"[Mesh] OR "Physician's Practice Patterns"[Mesh] OR "Socioeconomic Factors"[Mesh] OR "State Medicine"[Mesh] OR "Evidence-Based Medicine"[Mesh] OR "Hospitals"[Mesh] OR "Uncertainty"[Mesh] OR "Educational Status"[Mesh] OR "Hospital Costs"[Mesh] OR "Physician Incentive Plans"[Mesh] OR "Social Class"[Mesh] OR "Obstetrics and Gynecology Department, Hospital"[Mesh] OR "supply and distribution"[Subheading] OR "utilization"[Subheading] OR "Insurance"[Mesh] OR "Choice Behavior"[Mesh] OR "Attitude to Health"[Mesh] OR "Patient Participation"[Mesh] OR "Physician-Patient Relations"[Mesh] OR "Economics, Hospital"[Mesh] OR "Maternal Health Services"[Mesh] OR "Health Services Accessibility"[Mesh] OR "Health Services Research"[Mesh] OR "Rural Population"[Mesh] OR "Urban Population"[Mesh]))) OR factors OR rates OR statistics OR causes OR determinants AND (((((operative delivery OR caesarean section OR cesarean section OR c-section OR c section OR caesarean OR cesarean OR caesarean delivery OR cesarean delivery OR caesarean rates OR cesarean rates)))) OR cesarean section [MeSH Terms])) AND (((("Catchment Area (Health)"[Mesh] OR "Small-Area Analysis"[Mesh]))) OR (((small area analysis OR small area analyses OR medical practice variation OR regions OR geographic variation OR variation))))))

2. Embase (Ovid SP)

#	Searches	Results	Search Type	Actions
1	decision making/	134077	Advanced	Display More >>
2	professional practice/ or group practice/ or health care practice/ or medical practice/	129049	Advanced	Display More >>
3	socioeconomics/	110558	Advanced	Display More >>
4	state medicine.mp. or national health service/	54605	Advanced	Display More >>
5	evidence based medicine/	80825	Advanced	Display More >>
6	hospital/	216188	Advanced	Display More >>
7	uncertainty/	6158	Advanced	Display More >>
8	educational status/	36032	Advanced	Display More >>
9	"hospital cost"/	13192	Advanced	Display More >>
10	physician incentive plans.mp. or personnel management/	49572	Advanced	Display More >>
11	social class/	26291	Advanced	Display More >>
12	hospital department/	21809	Advanced	Display More >>
13	obstetrics/	27326	Advanced	Display More >>
14	gynecology/	29917	Advanced	Display More >>
15	13 or 14	42128	Advanced	Display More >>

16	12 and 15	413	Advanced	Display More >>
17	health care distribution/	2333	Advanced	Display More >>
18	health care utilization/	36879	Advanced	Display More >>
19	insurance/	33934	Advanced	Display More >>
20	choice behavior.mp.	765	Advanced	Display More >>
21	attitude to health/	81021	Advanced	Display More >>
22	patient participation/	16400	Advanced	Display More >>
23	doctor patient relation/	81043	Advanced	Display More >>
24	health economics/	33098	Advanced	Display More >>
25	obstetric procedure/	550	Advanced	Display More >>
26	health care access/	34433	Advanced	Display
27	health services research/	27579	Advanced	Display More >>
28	geographic distribution/	132846	Advanced	Display More >>
29	rural population/	30219	Advanced	Display More >>
30	urban population/	35323	Advanced	Display More >>
31	causes/	0	Advanced	Delete More >>
32	determinants/	1	Advanced	Display More >>
33	statistics/	301146	Advanced	Display More >>
34	rates/	0	Advanced	Delete More >>
35	factors/	0	Advanced	Delete More >>
36	1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10 or 11 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19 or 20 or 21 or 22 or 23 or 24 or 25 or 26 or 27 or 29 or 30 or 32 or 33	1340916	Advanced	Display More >>
37	cesarean section/	59755	Advanced	Display More >>
38	(caesarean section or cesarean section or c-section or c section or caesarean or cesarean or caesarean delivery or cesarean delivery or caesarean rates or cesarean rates or operative delivery).ti,ab,tw.	53950	Advanced	Display Delete More >>
39	37 or 38	73014	Advanced	Display More >>
40	(small area analysis or small area analyses or small aera or medical practice variation or regions or geographic variation or variation or variations).ti,ab,tw.	964890	Advanced	Display More >>
41	28 or 40	1082827	Advanced	Display More >>
42	36 and 39 and 41	357	Advanced	Display More >>

3. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

Caesarean section