

Appendix 1. Final search strategy.

Pubmed:

((((((((High-cost*) OR (high spending)) OR (Costliest) OR (highest-cost*))) AND ((((((Patient*) OR (Individual*)) OR (Benefici*) OR (Person*)) OR (user*)) NOT medline[sb])) OR ((((((("Economics, Hospital"[Mesh]) OR "Economics, Medical"[Mesh]) OR "Health Care Sector"[Mesh])) OR ("Costs and Cost Analysis"[Mesh])))) AND (((((((High-cost*) OR (high spending)) OR (Costliest) OR (highest-cost*))) AND ((((((Patient*) OR (Individual*)) OR (Benefici*) OR (Person*)) OR (user*)))))

Embase:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | (high-cost* or high spending or Costliest or highest-cost*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, subject headings, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword] |
| 2 | (patient* or individual* or benefici* or person* or user*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, subject headings, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword] |
| 3 | "hospital cost"/ or "health care cost"/ or "cost"/ or economic aspect/ or "hospital utilization"/ or medicare/ or exp medicaid/ |
| 4 | 1 and 2 and 3 |
| 5 | ((high-cost* or high spending or Costliest or highest-cost*) adj3 (patient* or individual* or benefici* or person* or user*).mp. |
| 6 | 4 or 5 |