

Table S1. Search strategy used in different databases	
Source of search	Search terms
PubMed (MEDLINE)	(health literacy OR illiteracy) AND (treatment adherence and compliance OR patient compliance OR compliance OR patient adherence OR adherence OR non-adherence OR nonadherence OR medication adherence OR discontinuation OR non-compliance OR noncompliance OR termination OR refill) AND (aged OR old OR older OR elderly OR geriatric OR oldest OR elders)
CINAHL	(health literacy OR illiteracy) AND (treatment adherence and compliance OR patient compliance OR compliance OR patient adherence OR adherence OR non-adherence OR nonadherence OR medication adherence OR discontinuation OR non-compliance OR noncompliance OR termination OR refill) AND (aged OR old OR older OR elderly OR geriatric OR oldest OR elders)
COCHRANE	health literacy OR illiteracy in Title Abstract Keyword AND treatment adherence OR patient compliance OR compliance OR patient adherence OR adherence OR non-adherence OR medication adherence OR discontinuation OR non-compliance OR noncompliance OR nonadherence OR termination OR refill in Title Abstract Keyword AND aged OR old OR older OR elderly OR geriatric OR oldest OR elders in Title Abstract Keyword - (Word variations have been searched)
LIVIVO	("health literacy") AND ("patient compliance and compliance" OR "patient adherence" OR adherence) AND (aged OR old OR older OR elderly)
Epistemonikos	(advanced_title_en:(health literacy OR illiteracy) OR advanced_abstract_en:(health literacy OR illiteracy)) AND (advanced_title_en:(treatment adherence OR patient compliance OR compliance OR patient adherence OR adherence OR non-adherence OR medication adherence OR discontinuation OR non-compliance OR noncompliance OR nonadherence OR termination OR refill) OR advanced_abstract_en:(patient compliance OR compliance OR patient adherence OR adherence OR non-adherence OR medication adherence OR discontinuation OR non-compliance OR noncompliance OR nonadherence OR termination OR refill)) AND (advanced_title_en:(aged OR old OR older OR elderly OR geriatric OR oldest OR elders) OR advanced_abstract_en:(aged OR old OR older OR elderly OR geriatric OR oldest OR elders)) [Filters: protocol=no]

PubMed Search

Search: **(health literacy OR illiteracy) AND (treatment adherence and compliance OR patient compliance OR compliance OR patient adherence OR adherence OR non-adherence OR nonadherence OR medication adherence OR discontinuation OR non-compliance OR noncompliance OR termination OR refill) AND (aged OR old OR older OR elderly OR geriatric OR oldest OR elders)**

("health literacy"[MeSH Terms] OR ("health"[All Fields] AND "literacy"[All Fields]) OR "health literacy"[All Fields] OR ("literacy"[MeSH Terms] OR "literacy"[All Fields] OR "illiteracy"[All Fields])) AND ("treatment adherence and compliance"[MeSH Terms] OR ("treatment"[All Fields] AND "adherence"[All Fields] AND "compliance"[All Fields]) OR "treatment adherence and compliance"[All Fields] OR ("patient compliance"[MeSH Terms] OR ("patient"[All Fields] AND "compliance"[All Fields]) OR "patient compliance"[All Fields]) OR ("compliances"[All Fields] OR "patient compliance"[MeSH Terms] OR ("patient"[All Fields] AND "compliance"[All Fields]) OR "patient compliance"[All Fields] OR "compliance"[All Fields] OR "compliance"[MeSH Terms]) OR ("patient compliance"[MeSH Terms] OR ("patient"[All Fields] AND "compliance"[All Fields]) OR "patient compliance"[All Fields] OR ("patient"[All Fields] AND "adherence"[All Fields]) OR

"patient adherence"[All Fields]) OR ("adherence"[All Fields] OR "adhere"[All Fields] OR "adhered"[All Fields] OR "adherence"[All Fields] OR "adherences"[All Fields] OR "adherent"[All Fields] OR "adherents"[All Fields] OR "adherer"[All Fields] OR "adherers"[All Fields] OR "adheres"[All Fields] OR "adhering"[All Fields]) OR "non-adherence"[All Fields] OR ("nonadherence"[All Fields] OR "nonadherent"[All Fields] OR "nonadherents"[All Fields] OR "nonadherers"[All Fields]) OR ("medication adherence"[MeSH Terms] OR ("medication"[All Fields] AND "adherence"[All Fields]) OR "medication adherence"[All Fields]) OR ("discontinuance"[All Fields] OR "discontinuances"[All Fields] OR "discontinued"[All Fields] OR "discontinuation"[All Fields] OR "discontinuations"[All Fields] OR "discontinue"[All Fields] OR "discontinued"[All Fields] OR "discontinuer"[All Fields] OR "discontinuers"[All Fields] OR "discontinues"[All Fields] OR "discontinuing"[All Fields]) OR "non-compliance"[All Fields] OR ("noncompliant"[All Fields] OR "noncompliers"[All Fields] OR "noncompliers"[All Fields] OR "noncomplying"[All Fields] OR "patient compliance"[MeSH Terms] OR ("patient"[All Fields] AND "compliance"[All Fields]) OR "patient compliance"[All Fields] OR "noncompliance"[All Fields] OR "noncompliances"[All Fields]) OR ("terminal"[All Fields] OR "terminal s"[All Fields] OR "terminally"[All Fields] OR "terminals"[All Fields] OR "terminate"[All Fields] OR "terminated"[All Fields] OR "terminates"[All Fields] OR "terminating"[All Fields] OR "termination"[All Fields] OR "terminations"[All Fields] OR "terminator"[All Fields] OR "terminators"[All Fields]) OR ("refill"[All Fields] OR "refillable"[All Fields] OR "refilled"[All Fields] OR "refilling"[All Fields] OR "refills"[All Fields])) AND ("aged"[MeSH Terms] OR "aged"[All Fields] OR "old"[All Fields] OR ("older"[All Fields] OR "olders"[All Fields]) OR ("aged"[MeSH Terms] OR "aged"[All Fields] OR "elderly"[All Fields] OR "elderlies"[All Fields] OR "elderly s"[All Fields] OR "elderlys"[All Fields]) OR ("geriatric"[All Fields] OR "geriatrics"[MeSH Terms] OR "geriatrics"[All Fields]) OR "oldest"[All Fields] OR ("elder s"[All Fields] OR "elders"[All Fields] OR "sambucus"[MeSH Terms] OR "sambucus"[All Fields] OR "elder"[All Fields]))