

Appendix 2. Search strategy for types of evidence

Database: Ovid MEDLINE(R) <1966 to March Week 3 2004>

Search Strategy:

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1   systematic review$.mp. (4975)
2   exp meta-analysis/ (5236)
3   meta-analysis$.mp. [mp=title, abstract, name of substance, mesh subject
4   heading] (11944)
5   exp systematic review/ (0)
6   1 or 2 or 3 or 4 (15814)
7   remove duplicates from 5 [Sets larger than 6000 cannot be de-duped]
8   (15814)
9   limit 6 to human (15092)
10  cohort stud$.mp. or exp Cohort Studies/ (488987)
11  case control stud$.mp. or exp Case-Control Studies/ (254549)
12  cross sectional stud$.mp. or exp Cross-Sectional Studies/ (54577)
13  risk ratio$.mp. or exp Odds Ratio/ (22710)
14  relative risk$.mp. (24293)
15  8 or 9 or 10 or 11 or 12 (753703)
16  remove duplicates from 13 [Sets larger than 6000 cannot be de-duped]
17  (753703)
18  limit 14 to human (739506)
19  exp "Costs and Cost Analysis"/ or exp Cost-Benefit Analysis/ or
20  economic evaluation.mp. or exp Economics, Medical/ (115587)
21  cost effectiveness analys$.mp. (2357)
22  cost utility analys$.mp. (401)
23  cost minimisation analys$.mp. (45)
24  cost benefit analys$.mp. (32998)
25  cost analys$.mp. (2077)
26  16 or 17 or 18 or 19 or 20 or 21 (116508)
27  remove duplicates from 22 [Sets larger than 6000 cannot be de-duped]
28  (116508)
29  limit 23 to human (81874)
30  exp Randomized Controlled Trials/ or randomised controlled trial$.mp.
31  or
32  exp Clinical Trials/ or exp Random Allocation/ (188947)
33  exp Double-Blind Method/ or double blind.mp. or exp Placebos/ (104233)
34  single blind.mp. or exp Single-Blind Method/ (10605)
35  Comparative Study/ (1099082)
36  prospective stud$.mp. or exp Prospective Studies/ (185306)
37  follow up stud$.mp. or exp Follow-Up Studies/ (287644)
38  25 or 26 or 27 or 28 or 29 or 30 (1640103)
39  remove duplicates from 31 [Sets larger than 6000 cannot be de-duped]
40  (1640103)
41  limit 32 to human (1242007)
42  7 or 15 or 24 or 33 (1566180)
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