**Supplementary Table 2. Literature search strategy.**

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| **Ovid MEDLINE Database:** **Ovid MEDLINE(R) Daily Update,****Ovid MEDLINE(R) In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations and Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1946 to Present** |
| 18 November 2014 |
| 1. exp Unnecessary Procedures/ |
| 2. ((ineffective or obsolete or superseded or delisted or disinvest\* or outdated or superfluous or unnecessary or avoidable) adj3 (technolog$3 or intervention? or procedure?)).mp. |
| 3. Obsolescence.mp. |
| 4. Disinvestment\*.mp. |
| 5. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 |
| 6. \*Health Care Rationing/ |
| 7. \*"Cost Control"/ |
| 8. \*Health Resources/ |
| 9. \*Health Care Costs/ |
| 10. \*Resource Allocation/ |
| 11. Resource\* Allocation.mp. |
| 12. resource reallocation.mp. |
| 13. resource re-allocation.mp. |
| 14. \*Investments/ |
| 15. \*Decision Making, Organizational/ |
| 16. (priorit$3 adj1 set\*).mp. |
| 17. \*Policy Making/ |
| 18. \*"Delivery of Health Care"/ |
| 19. reinvest$5.mp. |
| 20. re-invest$5.mp. |
| 21. (cost\* adj1 cut\*).mp. |
| 22. \*Technology Assessment, Biomedical/ or HTA\*.mp. |
| 23. Health Technology Assessment\*.mp. |
| 24. ((reassessment\* or re-assessment\*) adj5 (technolog$3 or intervention? or procedure? or progra#m$3 or therap$3 or treatment?)).mp. |
| 25. Health Technology Reassessment\*.mp. |
| 26. 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10 or 11 or 12 or 13 or 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19 or 20 or 21 or 22 or 23 or 24 or 25 |
| 27. 5 and 26 |
|  |
| **Embase Search Strategy (from 1974)**  |
| 18 November 2014 |
| No | Query |
| #29 | #5 AND #28 |
| #28 | #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #11 OR #12 OR #13 OR #14 OR #15 OR #16 OR #17 OR #18 OR #19 OR #20 OR #21 OR #22 OR #23 OR#24 OR #25 OR #26 OR #27 |
| #27 | 'health technology' NEAR/1 reassessment\* |
| #26 | (reassessment\* OR 're assessment' OR 're assessments') NEAR/5 (technolog\* OR intervention\* OR procedure\* OR program\* ORtherap\* OR treatment\*) |
| #25 | hta\* |
| #24 | 'biomedical technology assessment'/mj |
| #23 | 'health technology assessment' |
| #22 | cost\* NEAR/1 cut\* |
| #21 | 're-investments' |
| #20 | 're-investment' |
| #19 | reinvest\* |
| #18 | 'health care delivery'/mj |
| #17 | 'policy making' |
| #16 | priorit\* NEAR/1 set\* |
| #15 | decision AND making AND organizational |
| #14 | investments |
| #13 | 'resource re-allocation' |
| #12 | 'resource reallocation' |
| #11 | 'resources allocation' |
| #10 | 'resource allocation'/mj |
| #9 | 'health care costs'/mj |
| #8 | 'health resources'/mj |
| #7 | 'cost control'/mj |
| #6 | health AND care AND rationing |
| #5 | #1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 |
| #4 | disinvestment\* |
| #3 | obsolescence |
| #2 | (ineffective OR obsolete OR superseded OR delisted OR disinvest\* OR outdated OR superfluous OR unnecessary OR avoidable) NEAR/3 (technolog\* OR intervention? OR procedure?) |
| #1 | 'unnecessary procedure'/exp |
|  |
| **The Cochrane Library** |
| 18 November 2014 |
| ID  | Search  |
| #1  | MeSH descriptor: [Unnecessary Procedures] explode all trees  |
| #2  | (ineffective or obsolete or superseded or delisted or disinvest\* or outdated or superfluous or unnecessary or avoidable) near (technolog\* or intervention\* or procedure\*) (Word variations have been searched)  |
| #3  | Obsolescence (Word variations have been searched)  |
| #4  | Disinvestment\* (Word variations have been searched) |
| #5 | #1 or #2 or #3 or #4 |
| #6  | MeSH descriptor: [Health Care Rationing] explode all trees  |
| #7  | MeSH descriptor: [Cost Control] explode all trees  |
| #8  | MeSH descriptor: [Health Care Costs] explode all trees  |
| #9  | MeSH descriptor: [Health Expenditures] explode all trees  |
| #10  | MeSH descriptor: [Resource Allocation] explode all trees  |
| #11  | resource reallocation (Word variations have been searched)  |
| #12  | resource re-allocation (Word variations have been searched)  |
| #13  | MeSH descriptor: [Health Resources] explode all trees  |
| #14  | MeSH descriptor: [Investments] explode all trees  |
| #15 | reinvest\* (Word variations have been searched)  |
| #16  | re-invest\* (Word variations have been searched)  |
| #17  | MeSH descriptor: [Decision Making, Organizational] explode all trees  |
| #18  | priorit\* near set\* (Word variations have been searched)  |
| #19  | MeSH descriptor: [Policy Making] explode all trees  |
| #20  | MeSH descriptor: [Delivery of Health Care] explode all trees and with qualifiers: [Economics – EC, Methods – MT, Standards – ST]  |
| #21  | cost\* near cut\* (Word variations have been searched)  |
| #22  | reassess\* (Word variations have been searched)  |
| #23  | re-assess\* (Word variations have been searched) |
| #24  | MeSH descriptor: [Technology Assessment, Biomedical] explode all trees |
| #25  | Health Technology Assessment (Word variations have been searched) |
| #26  | #5 or #6 or #7 or #8 or #9 or #10 or #11 or #12 or #13 or #14 or #15 or #16 or #17 or #18 or #19 or #20 or #21 or #22 or #23 or #24 or #25 |
| #27  | #5 and #26 in Methods Studies, Technology Assessments and *Economic Evaluations* |
|  |
| **CRD Database (from 1960)** |
| 18 November 2014 |
| 1  | MeSH DESCRIPTOR Unnecessary Procedures EXPLODE ALL TREES  |
| 2  | ((ineffective OR obsolete OR superseded OR delisted OR disinvest\* OR outdated OR superfluous OR unnecessary OR avoidable) NEAR (technolog\* OR intervention\* OR procedure\*))  |
| 3  | (Obsolescence)  |
| 4  | (Disinvestment\*)  |
| 5  | #1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4  |
| 6  | MeSH DESCRIPTOR Health Care Rationing EXPLODE ALL TREES  |
| 7  | MeSH DESCRIPTOR Cost Control EXPLODE ALL TREES  |
| 8  | MeSH DESCRIPTOR Health Care Costs EXPLODE ALL TREES  |
| 9  | MeSH DESCRIPTOR Health Expenditures EXPLODE ALL TREES  |
| 10  | MeSH DESCRIPTOR Resource Allocation EXPLODE ALL TREES  |
| 11  | (rograme reallocation)  |
| 12  | (rograme re-allocation)  |
| 13  | MeSH DESCRIPTOR Health Resources EXPLODE ALL TREES  |
| 14  | MeSH DESCRIPTOR Investments EXPLODE ALL TREES  |
| 15  | MeSH DESCRIPTOR Decision Making, Organizational EXPLODE ALL TREES  |
| 16  | (priorit\* NEAR set\*)  |
| 17  | MeSH DESCRIPTOR Policy Making EXPLODE ALL TREES  |
| 18  | MeSH DESCRIPTOR Delivery of Health Care EXPLODE ALL TREES  |
| 19  | (reinvest\*)  |
| 20  | (re-invest\*)  |
| 21  | (cost\* NEAR cut\*)  |
| 22  | (reassess\*)  |
| 23  | (re-assess\*)  |
| 24  | #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #13 OR #14 OR #15 OR #16 OR #17 OR #18 OR #19 OR #21 OR #22 OR #23 |
| 25  | #5 AND #24 |
| 26  | (#5 AND #24) IN NHSEED, HTA |
|  |
| **Web of Science (from 1990)** |
| 18 November 2014 |
| #17 | #16 AND #5 DocType=All document types; Language=All languages; |
| #16 | #15 OR #14 OR #13 OR #12 OR #11 OR #10 OR #9 OR #8 OR #7 OR #6 DocType=All document types; Language=All languages; |
| #15 | TS=(Health Care Reform$) DocType=All document types; Language=All languages; |
| #14 | TS=(re\*assessment$ SAME (technolog\* or intervention$ or procedure$)) DocType=All document types; Language=All languages; |
| #13 | TS=(Health Technology Assessment) DocType=All document types; Language=All languages; |
| #12 | TS=(Policy Making SAME Health Care) DocType=All document types; Language=All languages; |
| #11 | TS=(Priority Setting) DocType=All document types; Language=All languages; |
| #10 | TS=(Decision Making SAME Health Care) DocType=All document types; Language=All languages; |
| #9 | TS=(Resource$ Allocation) DocType=All document types; Language=All languages; |
| #8 | TS=(Health Expenditure$) *DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;* |
| #7 | TS=(Health Care Cost$) *DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;* |
| #6 | TS=(Health Care Rationing) *DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;* |
| #5 | #4 OR #3 OR #2 OR #1 *DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;* |
| #4 | TS=(Disinvestment$) *DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;* |
| #3 | TS=(Obsolescence) *DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;* |
| #2 | TS=(Unnecessary Procedures) *DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;*  |
| #1 | TS=((ineffective or obsolete or superseded or delisted or disinvest\* or outdated or superfluous or unnecessary or avoidable) SAME (technolog\* or intervention$ or procedure$)) *DocType=All document types; Language=All languages;* |