

**Appendix Table 1. Search strategies employed**

(i) EBSCO Databases Search Strategy:

TX ("lithium therap\*" OR "lithium") AND TX ( "drug monitoring" OR "drug prescribing" ) AND TX ( "standards" OR "guidelines" OR "guideline adherence" OR "quality" ).

(ii) PubMed Search Strategy:

("lithium"[MeSH Terms] OR "lithium"[All Fields]) AND (("drug monitoring"[MeSH Terms] OR "drug"[All Fields] AND "monitoring"[All Fields]) OR "drug monitoring"[All Fields]) AND ("standards"[Subheading] OR "standards"[All Fields] OR "reference standards"[MeSH Terms] OR "reference"[All Fields] AND "standards"[All Fields]) OR "reference standards"[All Fields])

(iii) SCOPUS Search Strategy:

( TITLE-ABS-KEY ( "lithium monitoring" OR "lithium prescribing" OR "lithium therap\*" OR "lithium treatment" ) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY ( "standards" OR "prescribing patterns" OR "practice" OR "patterns" ) ) AND SUBJAREA ( mult OR medi OR nurs OR vete OR dent OR heal ) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( AFFILCOUNTRY , "United Kingdom" ) OR LIMIT-TO ( AFFILCOUNTRY , "Ireland" ) ) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( SUBJAREA , "MEDI" ) )

(iv) Web of Science Search Strategy:

TOPIC: ("lithium therapy\*") OR TOPIC: ("Lithium treatment") AND TOPIC: ("Drug monitoring" OR "drug prescribing") AND TOPIC: (standards OR quality)  
Refined by: RESEARCH DOMAINS: ( SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ) AND RESEARCH AREAS: ( PSYCHIATRY OR GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE ) AND LANGUAGES: ( ENGLISH ) AND COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES: ( UK OR IRELAND )



**Appendix Table 2. (continued)**

<b>Data Collection</b>	Does the study measure the outcome at a time appropriate for capturing the intervention's effect?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Is the instrument included in the publication?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Are questions posed clearly enough to be able to elicit precise answers?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Were those involved in data collection not involved in delivering a service to the target population?	U	N	U	U	U	N	U	U	U	Y
<b>Study Design</b>	Is the study type / methodology utilized appropriate?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Is there face validity?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Is the research methodology clearly stated at a level of detail that would allow its replication?	Y	Y	U	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	U	Y
	Was ethics approval obtained?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Are the outcomes clearly stated and discussed in relation to the data collection?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Results</b>	Are all the results clearly outlined?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
	Are confounding variables accounted for?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Do the conclusions accurately reflect the analysis?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Is subset analysis a minor, rather than major, focus of the article?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Are suggestions provided for further areas to research?	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Is there external validity?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	

Key: Y(Yes); N(No); U(Unclear); N/A (not applicable)

**Appendix Table 3.** *Qualitative research appraisal tool (based on Kupper et al., 2008)*

Crowe et al., 2010<sup>[14]</sup>

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Question 1: Was the sample used in the study appropriate to its research question?	Y
Question 2: Were the data collected appropriately?	Y
Question 3: Were the data analysed appropriately?	Y
Question 4: Can I transfer the results of this study to my own setting?	Y
Question 5: Does the study adequately address potential ethical issues, including reflexivity?	Y
Question 6: Overall: Is what the researchers did clear?	Y