**Supplementary Table 1. Search strategy in MEDLINE and MEDLINE in process (OVIDSP, 10 February 2015)**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | exp osteoarthritis, knee/ | 11210 |
| 2 | knee osteoarthritis.mp. | 4928 |
| 3 | (knee adj5 arthritis).mp. | 2499 |
| 4 | (arthros#s adj5 knee).mp. | 430 |
| 5 | 1-4 OR | 15083 |
| 6 | exp Exercise Therapy/ | 31401 |
| 7 | exp Exercise/ | 122755 |
| 8 | exp Physical Therapy Modalities/ | 127112 |
| 9 | exp Exercise Movement Techniques/ | 5431 |
| 10 | exp Hyperthermia, Induced/ | 23875 |
| 11 | \*Diathermy/ | 1965 |
| 12 | exp Ultrasonic Therapy/ | 9125 |
| 13 | \*Short-Wave Therapy/ | 116 |
| 14 | \*Microwaves/ | 8251 |
| 15 | \*Ammotherapy/ | 23 |
| 16 | \*Acupressure/ | 388 |
| 17 | exp Rehabilitation/ | 152470 |
| 18 | exp Cryotherapy/ | 20459 |
| 19 | exp Electric Stimulation Therapy/ | 59852 |
| 20 | exp Iontophoresis/ | 6778 |
| 21 | exp Magnetic Field Therapy/ | 7663 |
| 22 | exp Hydrotherapy/ | 17339 |
| 23 | exp Infrared Rays/ | 10251 |
| 24 | exp Transcutaneous Electric Nerve Stimulation/ | 5988 |
| 25 | \*Muscle Stretching Exercises/ | 670 |
| 26 | \*Resistance Training/ | 2707 |
| 27 | \*Musculoskeletal Manipulations/ | 684 |
| 28 | exp Massage/ | 4803 |
| 29 | exp Paraffin/ | 2777 |
| 30 | exp Mud Therapy/ | 1274 |
| 31 | exp Health Education/ | 137064 |
| 32 | ((prescribe$ or prescript$) adj2 exercise).tw. | 1872 |
| 33 | (exercise$ or physiotherap$ or physical therap$ or training or Iontophoresis or Infrared Rays or INFRARED or isometric exercise$ or Thermotherap$ or massotherap$ or cryotherap$ or Magnetic Therap$ or Magnet therap$ or hydrotherap$ or Mud Therap$).tw. | 532830 |
| 34 | (TENS or electroacupuncture).ab,ti. | 12414 |
| 35 | (Health education or electrotherap$ or skin traction or Rehab or Massage).mp. | 85323 |
| 36 | 6-35 OR | 1011069 |
| 37 | 5 and 36 | 2661 |
| 38 | limit 37 to ("economics (best balance of sensitivity and specificity)" or "costs (best balance of sensitivity and specificity)") | 141 |
| 39 | Economics/ | 26562 |
| 40 | "costs and cost analysis"/ | 42026 |
| 41 | Cost allocation/ | 1945 |
| 42 | Cost-benefit análisis/ | 61205 |
| 43 | Cost control/ | 20378 |
| 44 | Cost savings/ | 9031 |
| 45 | Cost of illness/ | 18369 |
| 46 | Cost sharing/ | 2003 |
| 47 | "deductibles and coinsurance"/ | 1454 |
| 48 | Medical savings accounts/ | 485 |
| 49 | Health care costs/ | 28017 |
| 50 | Direct service costs/ | 1038 |
| 51 | Drug costs/ | 12386 |
| 52 | Employer health costs/ | 1069 |
| 53 | Hospital costs/ | 8035 |
| 54 | Health expenditures/ | 13925 |
| 55 | Capital expenditures/ | 1949 |
| 56 | Value of life/ | 5412 |
| 57 | exp economics, hospital/ | 19914 |
| 58 | exp economics, medical/ | 13485 |
| 59 | Economics, nursing/ | 3911 |
| 60 | Economics, pharmaceutical/ | 2549 |
| 61 | exp "fees and charges"/ | 27060 |
| 62 | exp budgets/ | 12232 |
| 63 | (low adj cost).mp. | 27445 |
| 64 | (high adj cost).mp. | 8539 |
| 65 | (health?care adj cost$).mp. | 5010 |
| 66 | (fiscal or funding or financial or finance).tw. | 87544 |
| 67 | (cost adj estimate$).mp. | 1514 |
| 68 | (cost adj variable).mp. | 35 |
| 69 | (unit adj cost$).mp. | 1652 |
| 70 | (economic$ or pharmacoeconomic$ or price$ or pricing).tw. | 185832 |
| 71 | 39-70 OR | 491645 |
| 72 | 37 and 71 | 88 |
| 73 | 38 or 72 | 161 |
| 74 | remove duplicates from 73 | 155 |
| 75 | limit 74 to yr="2013 –Current” | 30 |