**APPENDIX I- Systematic Review Search Strategies**

Final search run on 06/13/2017

Total references on 06/13/2017: 2989 references

Total following de-duplication: 2639 references

**Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria**

* To be eligible for inclusion, the study had to report an infection control outcome in the healthcare setting and had to employ a CRT design.
* No publication date limit.
* The search identified terms in the title, abstract and key words fields.
* Articles with titles and abstracts in English but without full text available in English or French were excluded.
* The most common reasons for exclusion included:

1) The study setting was not healthcare (i.e. daycare);

2) Randomization was not at the cluster level (randomized individual patients or healthcare workers);

3) The primary outcome was not directly related to hospital infection prevention and control (i.e. general infectious disease outcomes) and;

4) The article did not present original research (i.e. commentaries, trial protocols, conference abstracts, guidelines)

**Ovid MEDLINE** 1290referenceson 6/13/2017

(Cluster Analysis/or Randomized Controlled Trials as Topic/ OR Cross-Over Studies/ OR Cluster randomized trial.mp OR Stepped wedge.mp) **AND**

(Infection Control OR Hospital epidemiology.mp OR Nosocomial infection.mp or Cross Infection/ OR Antimicrobial stewardship.mp)

**Embase** 710 references on 06/13/2017

(“cluster analysis”:de,ab,ti OR “randomized controlled trial (topic)”/de OR “randomized control\* trial\*”:de,ab,ti OR “cross-over stud\*”:ab,ti OR “crossover procedure”/de OR “cluster randomized trial\*”:ab,ti OR “stepped wedge”:ab,ti) **AND**

(“infection control”:de,ab,ti OR “hospital epidemiology”:ab,ti OR “hospital acquired infection\*”:ab,ti OR “nosocomial infection\*”:ab,ti OR “hospital infection”/de OR “cross infection”/de OR “antimicrobial stewardship”:ab,ti) **AND**

([embase]/lim NOT [medline]/lim)

**CENTRAL** 989 references on 06/13/2017 – *title, abstract, keywords*

(“cluster analysis” OR “randomized control\* trial\*” OR “cross-over stud\*” OR “cluster randomized trial\*” OR “stepped wedge”) **AND**

(“infection control” OR “hospital epidemiology” OR “hospital acquired infection\*” OR “nosocomial infection\*” OR “cross infection\*” OR “antimicrobial stewardship”)