**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 ((ineffective or obsolete or superseded or delisted or disinvest\* or outdated or superfluous or unnecessary or avoidable) adj3 (technolog$3 or intervention?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;* | |